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\$5M-plus FEMA grant is awarded to Tinian, DPS. PAGE 5

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Alert out vs swine fever



In this May 8, 2019, photo, pigs stand in a barn at a pig farm in Panggezhuang village in northern China's Hebei province. AP

Although African swine fever has not officially reached the CNMI, the Department of Lands and Natural Resources is not taking any chances, warning that the disease has made its way from China to the Philippines and has the potential to spread toward Micronesia.

This early, DLNR, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, is warning

the public and hog producers in the CNMI to be especially watchful for this highly contagious viral disease.

See ALERT on Page 4

Church is damaged in burglary attempt

By MARC A. VENUS
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REPORTER

While all of Saipan and other islands were coping with floods brought by Tropical Depression 17W, the San Jose church was facing its own challenge as the latest victim of an at-

tempted burglary. The Department of Public Safety informed *Saipan Tribune* that they received a 911 call in the early evening hours of Sunday and officers dispatched to the scene found visible damage to the church that included the

See CHURCH on Page 4

'Hillbroom trustee paid himself \$3.4M more'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

While Keith Waibel was subject to a limited fee agreement as then-trustee of Junior Larry Hillblom, record shows that he paid himself at least \$7.6 million, according to Vietnam-based lawyer Barry J. Israel in his motion to dismiss Hillbrom's lawsuit against him and David J. Lujan.

Israel, through counsel

Theodore W. Frank, said that Waibel was subject to a limited fee agreement authorizing him to be paid a 2% fee of the trust's value on an annual basis, yet the records show that he gave himself at least \$119,500 in unsupported cash advances and another \$914,219 in claimed out-of-pocket expenses.

Any such cash advances and out-of-pocket expenses, were inappropriately charged because they were for work on Waibel's other clients or sometimes for his wife and, See HILLBROM on Page 4

STORMWATER RUNOFF

Heavy stormwater runoff brought by the torrential rain from a tropical depression on Sunday flows directly into the Saipan lagoon in Garapan.

IVA MAURIN



INSIDE



BUSINESS

Topnotch, a supplier of trophies, plaques, and medals, has relocated to Quarter-master.

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FOCUS

Mental health counselors are fanning out to help those traumatized by Hurricane Dorian.

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LIFE & STYLE

British superstar Adele has filed for divorce from husband Simon Konecki after seven years.

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Local

USCIS has until December to issue HR 559 regulations

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Even though U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has yet to publish guidelines for recently-enacted law that allows parolees to apply for CNMI-only resident status, one parolee is not that worried.

"I am not worried because that is the law. If they [USCIS] can't come up with the

regulations [soon], I believe they will give us an extension," said Itos Feliciano, who is one of the over 1,000 parolees under the Immigration and Nationality Act who now qualifies for CNMI-only resident status.

A provision of the newly-enacted H.R. 559 mandates the Department of Homeland Security to come up within six months, or 180 days, with the process on how aliens

who are eligible to apply for CNMI-only resident status can do it. The bill was enacted on June 26, 2019. That means DHS has up to the end of December to come out with the regulations.

Feliciano pointed out that people similar to his case are "protected by a law signed by U.S. President Donald J. Trump."

Confirming with Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan

(Ind-MP), he noted that USCIS has yet to release guidelines on the new legislation. *Saipan Tribune* reached out to USCIS through email but the federal agency has yet to respond as of press time.

However, according to H.R. 559, the secretary of Homeland Security may, at his own discretion, authorize deferred action or parole as needed—with work authorization—beyond the 180-

day period.

Feliciano is only one of 1,039 parolees who received long-term humanitarian parole, or people who are under the categorical parole program and those holding employment authorization documents.

H.R. 559 took almost five months of efforts to pass U.S. Congress and be ultimately enacted by Trump.

H.R. 559 applies to all immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and other stateless individuals, CNMI permanent

residents and their IRs, IRs of citizens of Freely Associated States (the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau), and certain in-home caregivers of CNMI residents.

Sablan introduced the legislation last Jan. 15 and it passed the U.S. House of Representatives on June 3, 2019. The Senate passed it on June 24, 2019, and was enacted by Trump two days later.

\$9.5M bill amended six times to fund PSS repairs

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

In order to secure funds for the Public School System, a \$9.5-million appropriation bill went through six amendments yesterday at a session of the Saipan and Northern Island Legislative Delegation and was finally substituted with another bill that lowered the money to just \$3 million.

House Local Bill 21-28 now goes to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

The final version ultimately appropriates only \$3 million of the \$9.5 million from the

annual casino license renewal fee payment, based on the substitute bill that Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) introduced. That substitute bill allocates \$685,000 out of the \$3 million to assist PSS campuses. All precincts on Saipan except Precinct III chipped in, to come up with the \$685,000 allotted to PSS.

Each precinct has \$300,000 to play around with; each representative offered amendments to the substitute bill that included allocations to PSS.

From Precinct I, Rep. Janet Maratita (R-Saipan) allo-

cated \$50,000 each for Hopwood Middle School, Saipan Southern High School, San Vicente Elementary School, and Koblerville Elementary School, respectively, while Francisco M. Sablan Middle School and Dandan Middle School is allocated \$35,000 each. The remaining \$30,000 goes to the Micronesian Legal Services Corp. The amendment includes the CNMI's 10% co-share for the repair of each school; the Federal Emergency Management Agency will shoulder 90% of the cost.

Precinct II's Rep. John

Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), who also chairs the delegation, offered an amendment that splits the \$300,000 between the William S. Reyes Elementary School and Hopwood evenly for repairs, reconstruction, and rebuilding.

Precinct III's \$300,000, as allocated in Blanco's substitute bill, was unchanged, with \$150,000 for the Oleai Church road project and \$150,000 for Industrial Drive repairs.

Precinct IV's Reps. Joel Camacho (R-Saipan) and Sheila Babauta (Ind-Saipan) offered an amendment to allocate \$25,000 each for Kagman High School, Tanapag Middle

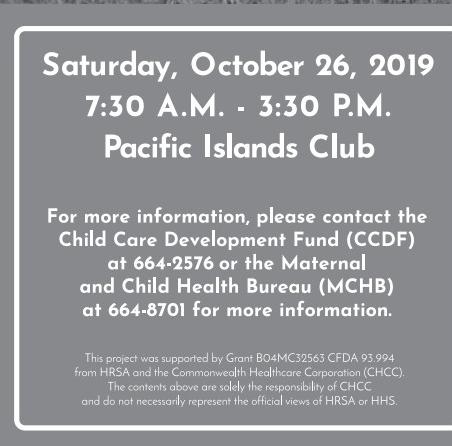
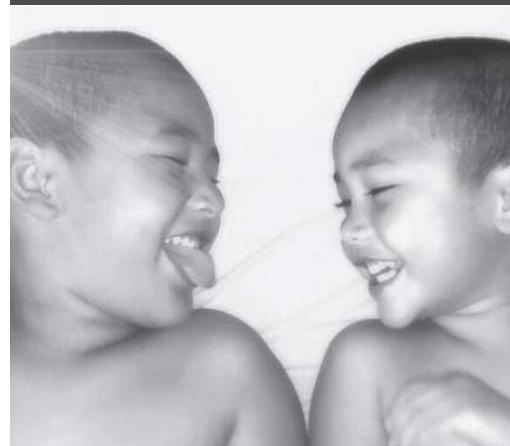
School, and Hopwood, respectively; Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School is allocated \$20,000; the remaining \$200,000 is allocated for the construction of roads and drainages within the precinct.

Maratita, who offered an amendment for Precinct V's allocations, allocated \$25,000 each for Hopwood, Chacha Oceanview Middle School, and Kagman Elementary School, while the remaining \$225,000 goes to the completion of the paving of Tangang Tangang Road in Papago and the paving of Kama Street in Kagman III.

All amendments unanimously passed the delegation

on a vote of 16-0.

The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance program is allocated \$500,000, while the Saipan Mayor's Office is allocated \$250,000; the Northern Islands Mayor's Office gets \$50,000; Center for Living Independently gets \$94,000; delegation operations get \$200,000; the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library gets \$32,375; the Carolinian Affairs Office gets \$21,595; the Indigenous Affairs Office gets \$26,400; and many more government agencies such as the Family Violence Task Force, Public Defenders Office, and the NMI Museum were also allocated funds.



This project was supported by Grant BO4MC32563 CFDA 93.994 from HRSA and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC). The contents above are solely the responsibility of CHCC and do not necessarily represent the official views of HRSA or CHCC.



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Landowner slams the OAG for scandalous motion vs Camacho

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Landowner Conrad M. Sablan contends that the Office of the Attorney General's motion to have Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho disqualified from presiding over his lawsuit is "scandalous, frivolous, and made in bad faith."

The OAG filed the motion to disqualify Camacho from handling the case on the sixth day of a bench trial in Sablan's lawsuit against the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the CNMI government.

In Sablan's opposition to the CNMI government's motion to disqualify Camacho, his lawyer, Brien Sers Nicholas, said that levying "such reckless accusations" against the judge "is totally unacceptable," especially when the case is one day short of being completed.

Sers Nicholas said that the CNMI has known of Camacho's familial relationships and the cases involving his family for quite some time before the start of the trial in Sablan's lawsuit before the judge, and yet did nothing

about it.

Citing conflict of interest, the CNMI government, through the OAG, moved to disqualify Camacho from presiding over the bench trial in Sablan's lawsuit.

Christopher M. Timmons, chief of the OAG Civil Division, argued that Camacho's impartiality might be questioned because Sers Nicholas represents the judge's brother and grandmother in a similar lawsuit against the same defendant, the CNMI.

Timmons said the separate lawsuit involving Camacho's brother, Claudio Norita, and grandmother, Julia Norita, presents legal issues that the judge will be required to decide in Sablan's case.

But in Sablan's opposition to the OAG's motion, Sers Nicholas emphasized that this simple but yet undisputed fact that the CNMI's knowledge has been there for some time without being acted upon until one/two days before the end of the Sablan trial is proof positive that there was nothing in the first place that would warrant Camacho's disqualification.

Sers Nicholas said the

CNMI, citing the 2018 lawsuit filed by Camacho's grandmother and brother, claims that the judge's family has raised legal issues relating to the proper determination of dates of taking and land valuation, each of which may be affected by Camacho's evidentiary rulings and his decision in the Sablan case.

This is complete nonsense, Sers Nicholas said.

He said the arguments presented by the CNMI are not only self-serving of the highest order but are "most definitely frivolous and in bad faith" deserving of contempt citations against Timmons and the OAG.

Sers Nicholas said at the time Sablan's case was filed with the court in 2015, he (Sers Nicholas) was already representing Claudio Kotomar Norita and Julia Norita in a case pending before the court since 1998.

The 1998 lawsuit brought by Claudio and Julia Norita seeks compensation against the CNMI for the taking of Julia Norita's land as part of the Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Tanapag.

See LANDOWNER on Next Page

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CUC hires drinking water, wastewater manager

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has hired a drinking water and wastewater division manager—one of the requirements of a federal court order.

CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho disclosed yesterday that they selected Randy BlackCloud from Alaska as water and wastewater division manager.

BlackCloud will be joining CUC next month.

Camacho said they are excited to have BlackCloud and that he is looking forward to work closely with him, with deputy executive director William Gilmore, the newly hired chief engineer for water and wastewater Joseph Carlson,

and CUC project manager Larry Manacop, along with other team members.

He said BlackCloud's experience will add to CUC's bid to further lower the non-revenue water loss on Saipan.

The drinking water waste-

water division manager position, previously held by Gary Byrd, has been vacant since Nov. 2, 2018, when he resigned to accept an off-island job.

As for the positions of wastewater treatment plant supervisor and technical manager for oil, Camacho said they are still reviewing the papers of the applicants.

The position of wastewater treatment plant supervisor has been vacant since Feb. 3, 2019, when Richard Wasser left for an off-island job.

As for the technical manager for oil, the position has been unfilled since Feb. 13, 2019, when Maximino Simian resigned to accept an off-island job offer.

Senior attorney Bradley R. O'Brien of the U.S. Department of Justice Environment and Natural Resources Division Environmental Enforcement Section said it is critical that the four key management positions be filled in order for CUC to be able to comply with stipulated order No. 1.

SO1 focuses on drinking water and wastewater and the restructuring of CUC's organization.

Last Aug. 21, CUC hired Joseph Carlson from Idaho as chief engineer for water and wastewater.

The chief engineer position became vacant on Nov. 2, 2018, when the previous chief engineer, Song Kim, resigned for personal matters.

Office of Youth Affairs sets new hours

The CNMI Office of Youth Affairs under the Office of the Governor announced last Thursday a change in their weekly youth centers' operational hours to accommodate parents and children during the school year.

This new schedule will allow the Youth Affairs Office to better serve its participants that are attending school on a half-day and full-day basis by providing them with more time to enjoy each centers'

weekly activities and upcoming programs for after school.

The new operational hours for the CNMI Office of Youth Affairs will be 8:30am to 5:30pm Monday to Friday with the exception of government holidays and closures every other Friday. The CNMI Office of Youth Affairs will resume normal government hours of 7:30am to 4:30pm only during longer school breaks such as Christmas break, spring break, and

summer breaks.

"As we welcome the new school year, we want to ensure that students will have ample time after school to utilize the centers," said special assistant for youth affairs Monique Boyer Sablan.

The CNMI Office of Youth Affairs has two centers: the Gualo Rai Youth Learning Center and the Chalan Kanoa Man'hoben Center. The San Vicente Youth Learning Center is set

to open early next year.

Currently, the Koblerville Youth Learning Center and San Antonio Youth Learning Center are closed for renovations.

Parents or legal guardians must provide food/drinks for their children daily as well as sign in and sign out their children. Entrance into the center daily is subject to the maximum capacity level at each center. Contact youthaffairs670@gmail.com or 235-1299 for more information. (PR)

ALERT

From Page 1

African swine fever is harmless to people but fatal and highly contagious for pigs, with no known cure, causing severe losses in the swine industry.

On Sept. 9, 2019, USDA-APHIS alerted DLNR that the Philippines confirmed that African swine fever caused the deaths of hundreds of pigs in towns near its capital city of Manila, becoming the latest Asian country to be affected by the disease.

According to CNMI state veterinarian Dr. Ignacio Dela Cruz, official notification has been made to immediate DLNR staff, agricultural quarantine inspectors, small pig farms as well as airport and seaport quarantine offices regarding the USDA-APHIS report of the outbreak in the Philippines' Rizal and Bulacan backyard hog producers.

Dela Cruz noted that the

latest survey of livestock and poultry for Saipan was conducted in 2017. That survey accounted for 36 hog or swine producers with a total of 999 hogs or pigs being raised. These numbers, however, are just approximate numbers of the total swine producers on the island in 2017 and accounted for only 90% of the total swine population on Saipan.

"I've contacted the supervising officers of our Airport and Seaport Agricultural Quarantine and told them about the African swine fever outbreak in the Philippines that was reported on Sept. 9, 2019. The first case was reported on Aug. 19, 2019. Rizal and Bulacan are two provinces that are currently under quarantine. I think the plan of the Philippine government is to cull, contain, and completely eradicate the disease, which is supposed to be very complex, difficult and challenging, requiring a lot of manpower and funding resources," Dela Cruz said.

DLN R Secretary Anthony

Benavente emphasized that although African swine fever has not officially reached the Micronesian region, every effort must be made to prevent its entrance due to the proximity of affected countries.

"African swine fever is a highly contagious and deadly disease that can adversely affect our livestock. Our state veterinarian advised our quarantine officers to instruct every inspector to confiscate and incinerate all pork products encountered at the seaport and airport, and to [carefully inspect] each cargo and passenger from the Philippines and other ASF infected countries like China, Vietnam, Cambodia, Mongolia, Hong Kong, North Korea, Laos, Thailand, and other Asian countries. We advise our hog producers, and distributors to be mindful of this and practice extra caution until further advisement from USDA and our office," Benavente said.

The Philippine agriculture department opened a probe

on Aug. 19, 2019, following increased swine deaths from backyard raisers and ordered that all pigs within a one-kilometer (about 0.62 miles) radius of infected farms be killed.

Lab tests have confirmed that African swine fever caused the deaths of pig herds in at least seven villages near Manila, after 14 of 20 blood samples sent to a British lab tested positive for the disease. More than 7,400 pigs have been culled in farms.

The Philippines is the latest country in Asia to be hit by the disease, with hard-hit China and Vietnam culling millions of pigs and scrambling to find a vaccine to contain infections that have ravaged their swine industries.

China is home to half the world's pig population. In Vietnam alone, the virus has caused the deaths of more than 4 million pigs.

Some experts have said the current spread of swine fever is the largest known animal disease outbreak in history. (PR, With AP)

HILLBROOM

From Page 1

later, his girlfriend/mistress and baby in Vietnam, Frank added. That amount is totally unjustified given how much was apparently actually in the Hillbroom's trust each year.

Frank raised this alleged Waibel misconduct in his argument that Waibel deliberately concealed his misconduct to divert attention to false allegations of extrinsic fraud made against Hillbroom's former lawyers, Israel and Guam lawyer David Lujan.

Frank said that Waibel ingratiated himself to Hillbroom, playing on the latter's drug addiction to foster

a father-son relationship. He said Waibel did it such that Hillbroom would not question or challenge Waibel regarding his (Waibel) mismanagement of Hillbroom's trust funds and assets.

Yet, Frank said, Waibel wanted more permanent assurances that his wrongdoing would never be discovered by Hillbroom.

Frank said Waibel, with the assistance of his subsequent lawyers, concocted these false allegations against Israel and Lujan.

Frank said Waibel coerced Hillbroom into thinking the allegations were true, and hoped Israel and Lujan would settle without a fight, permanently extricating him from any specter of wrongdoing in Hill-

broom's eyes.

Frank said Waibel, in exchange for his cooperation in the Hillbroom lawsuit, entered into an agreement with Hillbroom agreeing to be sued, offering his testimony in exchange for assurances that any judgment against him would not be pursued.

Frank said although Waibel claims to have admitted to his misconduct in 2006 as trustee in Hillbroom's Trust, from 2006 to 2012 he paid himself an additional \$3.4 million in fees.

Frank said clearly, there was no intention to remove Waibel as trustee during the pendency of this "shake-down lawsuit."

He said Waibel continued as trustee for almost five years after the Hillbroom

lawsuit was filed, even while the complaint goes on for pages accusing him of serious wrongdoing.

On Feb. 6, 2009, Hillbroom filed his original lawsuit.

Frank noted that Waibel's trustee resignation letter took in effect on Dec. 31, 2013.

Hillbroom is suing Israel and Lujan for allegedly conspiring with Waibel to inflate their contingency fee when the fortune of the late DHL Worldwide Express co-founder Larry Hillbrom was still undergoing probate proceedings in the Superior Court. Israel and Lujan have denied the allegations.

Hillbroom is one of the four DNA-proven children of Hillbrom. His name is spelled differently from that

of Hillbrom.

Hillbrom died in a seaplane crash off Anatahan waters on a flight from Pagan Island to Saipan on May 21, 1995, leaving behind an estate worth approximately \$550 million. The bodies of the pilot and a business partner were found, but Hillbrom's body was never recovered.

In 2000, then-Superior Court judge pro tempore Alejandro C. Castro approved the settlement agreement proposed by the four children and Hillbrom's Foundation, paving the way for the distribution of the remaining \$72 million cash held by the Hillbrom estate.

Based on the settlement agreement, the foundation received \$24.9 million. The

four children received the following: Hillbrom, a Palauan, \$11.3 million; Jellian Cuartero, a Filipino, \$11.6 million; Mercedita Feliciano, Filipino, \$11.9 million; and Nguyen Be Lory, Vietnamese, \$13 million.

In the final settlement, each of the four children reportedly received a gross payment of \$90 million, reduced to \$50 million after taxes and fees, while the remaining \$240 million went to the Hillbrom Foundation.

Frank, however, disclosed that distributions received in cash by Hillbrom's Trust were \$63.8 million, plus the \$585,922, and assets valued at \$6.2 million were also distributed to Hillbrom and later sold most at a profit.

\$5M-plus FEMA grant is awarded to Tinian, DPS

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency announced yesterday that two federal grants totaling more than \$5 million will be awarded to the CNMI, in response to the

Super Typhoon Yutu disaster.

The first award provides \$3.6 million in federal funding to Tinian for building repairs. The total grant amount is \$3,995,327.65, with the FEMA share of \$3,595,794.89

at the 90% federal cost share. This funding is being provided under authority of Section 428 of the Robert T. Stafford Act.

The second award provides \$1.46 million in federal funding for the CNMI Department

of Public Safety for emergency protective measures as a result of Super Typhoon Yutu. This funding is authorized under Section 403 of the Robert T. Stafford Act.

These grants are funded

and roofing damage caused by Super Typhoon Yutu. You may qualify for the CNMI-FEMA VALOR Program, regardless of citizenship, if you have not previously received Small Business Administration funding or FEMA assistance for home repairs related to this disaster. Contact cnni-valor@fema.dhs.gov to verify if you are eligible for repairs through VALOR. (PR)

Wanted: Volunteers for Saipan home repairs

Recovery post-Super Typhoon Yutu continues as the CNMI-VALOR home repair program expands with the Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts partnership on Saipan. The CNMI-VALOR Program is seeking volunteers to join a community-wide initiative dedicated to rebuilding homes.

On Saturday, Sept. 28, 2019, at 8am, the Saipan Mayor's Office will be teaming up with the CNMI-VALOR Program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and C.A.R.E. to perform repairs on eligible homes. The VALOR Program provides

emergency home repairs for owners, renters and occupants whose primary residence was damaged by Yutu.

We ask for volunteers to help survivors conduct repairs so their homes are a safe place to reside. We encourage volunteers to bring tools such as a tape measure, hammer, hand-saw, screwdrivers (Phillip and flathead), drills, and other tools that will be beneficial to the project. We also suggest volunteers to wear appropriate attire for construction work: close-toed shoes, gloves, etc.

The CNMI-FEMA VALOR Program will be providing re-

pair materials, some tools and equipment to the project sites.

Be a part of the recovery. Volunteer with the CNMI-VALOR program by calling Lee Tenorio at the Saipan Mayor's Office at (670) 234-6208.

VALOR repairs are limited to windows, doors, electrical, plumbing, accessibility needs,

through FEMA's Public Assistance program, which provides grant reimbursement to communities for expenses incurred in the immediate response and the recovery from a disaster. Eligible applicants include states, federally-recognized tribal governments, U.S. territories, local governments, and certain private nonprofit organizations. The grant applications in the CNMI were submitted by the Commonwealth, which coordinates the process with local governments.

FEMA obligates funding for these projects directly to the Commonwealth and it is the Commonwealth's responsibility to ensure the eligible sub-recipients receive this award. Following its review

process and upon receipt of appropriate documentation, the Commonwealth will provide funds to the sub-recipient on a reimbursable basis. (PR)

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USDA reaches out to farmers, ranchers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is hosting a Farmer & Producer Outreach Briefing today from 5:30pm to 7pm at the Northern Marianas College, Agriculture Building, J-15.

The briefings, which will be conducted by the Farm Service Agency and the Natural Resources and Conservation Service, will give farmers and agricultural producers updates on disaster assistance, as well as information about the 2018 Farm Bill.

CNMI FSA committee chair Ramon "RB" Camacho said that farmers who are not registered with the FSA might get covered with the new Farm Bill. "We really didn't have disaster assistance. It's usually through [the FSA]. Whoever the [FSA] would have as new customers, or existing customers, they will check with us if we're already working with them or not," Sablan said.

Updates to the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program include the addition of potential resource concerns related to beneficial cost-effective operation changes; the increase in the cap for organic producers to \$140,000 over six years; and the new enrollment option through incentive contracts to address priority resource concerns.

The update would also require an advance payment option to be offered to underserved producers, and authorizes direct program assistance to irrigation districts, including acequias and other entities, for purposes of improving water use efficiencies.

FSA and NRCS will also be conducting a similar Farmer & Producer Outreach Briefing on Rota tomorrow, Sept. 18, from 1pm to 2:30pm at the Rota Mayor's Conference Hall.

For more information, contact the FSA Customer Service Center at (671) 472-7568 or (671) 300-8550. (Iva Maurin)

Upcoming checkpoints

The CNMI Department of Public Safety will be conducting a total of four separate occupant protection/child restraint checkpoints today, Sept. 17, 2019, and Thursday, Sept. 19, 2019.

Today, the first checkpoint will be on Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, San Jose to Isa Drive, San Vicente, from 8am to 9:15am.

The second checkpoint will be on Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, Dandan to Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, San

Jose, from 4pm to 5:15pm.

On Thursday, the first checkpoint will be on Beach Road, Garapan to Beach Road, Chalan Kanoa, from 8:15am to 9:30am.

The second checkpoint will be on Chalan Pale Arnold, Puerto Rico to Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Lau Lau, from 4:30pm to 5:45pm.

Locations of these checkpoints were pre-determined based on the number of auto accidents in these areas. (PR)

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FERDIE DE LA TORRE

DORE GRADUATE

Roque Sablan Norita, in green robe, shows his certificate of completion from the U.S. District Court for the NMI's Drug Offender Re-entry Program during a group photo with Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, DORE team members, and previous DORE graduates, during a graduation ceremony in the District Court last Sept. 10. Norita is DORE's seventh graduate to date.

TD moves away but surf, rip currents still risky

Tropical Depression Peipah is moving steadily northwest and away from the Marianas.

A large west swell will maintain hazardous surf and dangerous rip currents through tonight and a high surf advisory remains in effect through Tuesday night along west- and south-facing reefs.

Based on information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center-State Warning Point, the center of Peipah was located at 1pm yesterday about 245 miles north-northwest of Agrihan, about 290 miles north-northwest of Pagan, and about 605 miles north of Guam, with maximum sustained winds of 35 mph and was

moving northwest at 26 mph.

It is expected to make a slight turn toward the north-northwest with a decrease in forward speed over the next 24 hours.

Peipah is forecast to gradually weaken through today, Tuesday.

There is a high risk of rip currents through Tuesday night. Along west-facing reefs, hazardous surf of 10 to 12 feet will subside to between 8 and 10 feet on Tuesday.

Along south-facing reefs, hazardous surf of 8 to 10 feet will subside to between 7 and 9 feet tonight, then fall below hazardous levels to between 6 and 8 feet on Tuesday.

Dangerous rip currents are expected along south and west facing reefs.

The public is being advised to

avoid venturing out along south- and west-facing reefs and beaches. Large breaking waves can knock you down and cause serious injuries. Strong rip currents will be life threatening. If you become caught in a rip current, swim parallel to shore and back toward the beach when possible. Do not attempt to swim directly against the current as you will tire quickly. Heed the advice of lifeguards.

The CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point will be monitoring the movement of Peipah and will be issuing out bulletins as they become available. Keep a close watch on updates to weather forecasts and stay informed on the latest statements and advisories. (*Saipan Tribune/EOC*)

Comments sought on installation of water filtration system

The U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration is considering a request for federal assistance from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to construct the Granular Activated Carbon Filtration Systems in I Fadang (Isley Field) and Obyan.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Historic Preservation Act, EDA is assessing the potential impact of the proposed project on the environment and/or historic properties.

The project will install filter systems to treat and remove the perfluoroctanoic acid and perfluorooctane sulfonate contaminants found in the groundwater in the Isley Field and Obyan areas. The project will be located at the Isley Field near the Fran-

cisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport and the Obyan well field south of the Saipan airport runway. Project information is available for review on CUC's website at www.cucgov.org.

If you have any information regarding potential impacts, environmental resources, or historic properties associated with this project, provide it in writing to:

Regional Environmental Officer U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration 915 Second Avenue, Room 1890 Seattle, WA 98174 rdefato@eda.gov

Comments received at the EDA Regional Office by 5pm Eastern Standard Time on Oct. 4, 2019, will be considered. A copy of the NEPA/NHPA decisional document will be available upon request at the EDA Regional Office. (PR)



**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS ITB19-GOV-121

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF ROLL-OFF TRUCK WITH CABLE HOIST & TARPING SYSTEM for the TINIAN TRANSFER STATION

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, and Lt. Arnold I. Palacios, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed bids for Supply and Delivery of Roll-Off Truck with Cable Hoist and Tarping System for the Tinian Transfer Station, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on September 1, 2019 at the Office of Management & Budget, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. A \$25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001 and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMICAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratitudes and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a pre-bid conference for this project on Thursday, September 5, 2019, 10:00 am ChST at the CIP Office in Capitol Hill, Saipan. Questions concerning this project shall be directed to Ms. Nerissa Benavente in writing by e-mail: nerissa.cip@gmail.com, on or before Friday, September 13, 2019 to the Capital Improvement Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or fax (670) 664-2408. All responses to inquiries will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked **ITB19-GOV-121 Supply and Installation of Roll-off Truck with Cable Hoist & tarping System for the Tinian Transfer Station**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST September 30, 2019. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST September 30, 2019 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@cnmidof.net. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than September 30, 2019 and the bid documents must be received no later than October 9, 2019. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan at 10:00 a.m. ChST October 10, 2019. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be open at 10:00 a.m. ChST September 30, 2019.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:

- Cash
- US Government Securities
- Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by 180 calendar days, the contract time and will be accessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
CNMI Procurement & Supply



**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, OFFICE OF THE LT. GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

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INVITATION FOR BIDS

ITB19-GOV-129

Rota High School Renovation and Conversion to Office Spaces

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the 702 Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funded by Office of Insular Affairs, U.S. Department of Interior, (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed bids for the Rota High School Renovation and Conversion to Office Spaces on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on September 12, 2019 at the Office of Management & Budget, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001 and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMICAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratitudes and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a pre-bid conference for this project on Thursday, September 19, 2019, 10:00 am ChST at the project site in Songsong Village, Rota, CNMI. Questions concerning this project shall be directed to Ms. Nerissa Benavente in writing by e-mail: nerissa.cip@gmail.com, on or before Wednesday, September 25, 2019 to the Capital Improvement Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or fax (670) 664-2408. All responses to inquiries will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked **ITB19-GOV-129 Rota High School Renovation and Conversion to Office Spaces**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST October 15, 2019. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST October 15, 2019 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@cnmidof.net. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than October 15, 2019 and the bid documents must be received no later than October 24, 2019. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan at 10:30 a.m. ChST October 28, 2019. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be open at 10:00 a.m. ChST October 15, 2019.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:

- Cash
- US Government Securities
- Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by 180 calendar days, the contract time and will be accessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
CNMI Procurement & Supply



MVA

Japan's NHK films Kensei Kamiunten, president of Repatriation Society of the South Ocean Islands, as he pays his respects at the Kitamura Monument on Aug. 28, 2019, on Saipan. The group has conducted 50 memorial visits to Saipan and Tinian to commemorate the lives of Okinawans who lost their lives in the islands during World War II, as well as those repatriated to their homeland after the conflict.



Japan's NHK films on Saipan in August 2019 for news coverage and an upcoming documentary on the final memorial service of the Repatriation Society of the South Ocean Islands on Saipan. MVA

Japanese media feature Okinawan memorial visit

The final memorial visit to the Marianas of Okinawans who used to live in the islands prior to World War II has gained the interest of several Japanese media outlets who are featuring the event.

The Repatriation Society of the South Ocean Islands has brought former residents of Saipan and Tinian, their family members, dignitaries, and other individuals to the islands for the 50th memorial visit last Aug. 28-29, 2019. In cooperation with the Marianas Visitors Authority, television outlets Ryukyu Broadcasting Corp., NHK, and Okinawa Television Broadcasting sent media crews to cover the event.

"The annual memorial of the Repatriation Society of the South Ocean Islands has been a part of our annual calendar here at the MVA for a long as I can remember, and they have also hosted many cultural exchange trips for students from Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Palau through the years," said MVA Community Projects specialist Martin Duenas, who has worked with the office for over 25 years. "It shows their devotion to return year after year, and we are happy to support their visits and grateful for the ties they have built with the local community. Now that the few former residents are getting old to travel, it is sad to see them go. However, we hope that the Marianas will continue

to have some form of relationship with Okinawa based on our historic ties, and we are pleased that the Japanese media also feel these historic ties are newsworthy and of continued interest to their people."

Memorial services were held on Saipan and Tinian, commemorating the lives of Okinawans who lived in the Marianas, both those who were repatriated by the U.S. military to their homeland and those who lost their lives as a result of the Battles of Saipan and Tinian. The MVA supported the event with assisting in securing filming permits, site clearing and cleaning, and other logistics.

RBC featured the event on "The News" on Aug. 28 and 29, 2019, and will produce a program special "Sacrificed the South Sea Islands" to air in October. OTV featured the event on their program "Live News It!" on Sept. 4 and 5, 2019, reaching 175,000 viewers in Okinawa. NHK will feature the event in the documentary "Okinawa Friday Cruise KINKURU" on Sept. 20 and "Good Morning Japan," reaching 1.1 million viewers nationwide and 140,000 viewers in Okinawa.

The groups lodged at Grandvrio Resort Saipan and Clear Water Hotel during their visit and also filmed at other important World War II sites on Saipan and Tinian. (PR)



Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Priscilla Lakopo, eighth from left, welcomes members of the Repatriation Society of the South Ocean Islands and Okinawan officials for a courtesy visit on Aug. 29, 2019, at the MVA office in San Jose, Saipan. MVA



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SEE YOUR AK APPROVAL EXPERTS

New Botanical Garden bus shelter unveiled

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System's Office of Pupil Transportation transports about 3,000 students to and from bus shelters to their assigned schools everyday. However, many sites around the island that have been designated as bus shelters do not actually have any shelters at all.

Which is why the creation and unveiling of a new bus shelter at the Botanical Garden in Kagman is welcome news for Pupil Transportation director Shawn San Nicolas. The original shelter was damaged during Super Typhoon Yutu in October 2018.

"I would see kids here and there was no structure at all. I felt really bad for them, and so we are glad that the congressman built the structure and that the Rotary Club has decided to adopt it," San Nicolas said. "The kids are really going to appreciate this."

The office of House vice speaker Lorenzo "Larry" Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) spearheaded the creation of the bus shelter.

At the ribbon-cutting for the new bus shelter Friday, Rotary Club of Saipan president Marcia Ayuyu promised that the group would maintain the bus shelter



IVA MAURIN

Japan Rotary district governor Toyohisa Asada San and district secretary Yoshichika Iwaki San join Rotary Club of Saipan officials at the ribbon-cutting ceremony last Friday for the newly-constructed bus shelter at the Botanical Garden, which has been adopted by the club. Also in the photo is House vice speaker Lorenzo "Larry" Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), whose office built the shelter and Pupil Transportation director Shawn San Nicolas of the Public School System.

and keep it nice and clean.

Deleon Guerrero recalled that, right after the typhoon, they had to build a temporary shelter in the area using just tin roofs. The temporary shelter has since been demolished, but the benches would be restored. The new shelter is made of concrete.

"Our school kids are very important so I made it a priori-

ty to rebuild this shelter for the kids," Deleon Guerrero said.

With the monsoon season now in full swing, more concrete bus shelters are needed all over the island to ensure that children are protected from the harsh weather.

"There are several locations around the island, many locations actually, where there are designated bus shelters. But

there's no actual structure," San Nicolas said. "If there are people who are willing to build, contact my office and I can show them locations where we need structures where there's no structures and we need one."

For groups or individuals who are willing to help build bus shelters, contact the Office of Pupil Transportation at 322-9457.

'Vaping reports don't tell entire story'

By MARC A. VENUS
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Louis Rodgers, who owns the vape store VaprSpot in Dandan, insists on nuance in reporting about the recent string of vape-related lung diseases in the U.S. mainland.

He believes the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention has not been upfront about what's causing these diseases. He believes the culprit behind these diseases are the tetrahydrocannabinol cartridges that are in the black market.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration reported last Sept. 6 that vaping illnesses are seen from THC oil vaping products. The FDA advised the public to avoid using these products as they have the Vitamin E acetate, which enters the lungs upon inhalation and thus create lung illnesses.

Rodgers noted that THC cartridges are being sold in streets across the U.S. and in some unregistered stores. "FDA registered nicotine e-liquid sold in vape shops, like VaprSpot, do not and have not ever contained THC oil," Rodgers said.

He pointed out that vaping

has been around for almost a decade, with tens of millions of vapers around the world. It has only been in recent weeks, and only in the U.S. where there has been an issue about severe lung illnesses arising from vaping.

"No specific nicotine e-liquid product or brand has been named as the culprit [of these diseases] when in 2017, all e-cigarette manufacturers were required to submit their product and ingredient listings to the FDA in order to continue selling their products," he said. FDA recently notified companies to remove some products from the market.

Rodgers assures that VaprSpot products are 100% FDA approved and is aware of the ongoing incidents related to vaping. He believes that the public is misinformed about the truth of the cause behind these diseases, and his shop does not sell any of these products.

The Commonwealth Health Care Corp. has urged the public to avoid using vaping products but has not reported any local cases relating to these lung diseases.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-19-024

W-6 Sewer Lift Station Elimination

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the W-6 Sewer Lift Station Elimination in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists of the installation of gravity sewer main, new service laterals, connection to existing laterals, the abandonment of existing sewer manholes, and the elimination of the old W-5 wet well and the W-6 sewer lift station.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and CUC. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the project to be completed in **270 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **September 12, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 7, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB-19-024, W-6 Sewer Lift Station Elimination**" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 27, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen percent (15%) of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of one hundred percent (100%) of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of one hundred percent (100%) of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) approval. If CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 16, 2019** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Larry Manacop, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email at larry.manacop@cucgov.org, Nicolette Villagomez, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email at nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org, and Ms. Christie Sablan, Purchasing Technician, Senior, via email address at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLÁN
Purchasing Administrator

WILLIAM B. GILMORE
Acting, Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLÁN
Purchasing Administrator

IVAN M. RODRIGUEZ
Procurement & Supply Manager

CHRISTIE SABLÁN
Purchasing Technician, Senior

NICOLETTE VILLAGOMEZ
Water/Wastewater Engineer

LARRY MANACOP
Water/Wastewater Engineer

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Water/Wastewater Engineer

LARRY MANACOP
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IVAN M. RODRIGUEZ
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 COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Zoning closed on Sept. 20

The Saipan Zoning Office will be closed on Friday, Sept. 20, 2019, from 7:30am to 4:30pm for a professional development and training workshop for its staff. Regular office hours will resume on Monday, Sept. 23, 2019, at 7:30am. (PR)

Kagman schools' PTSA meeting today

The Kagman Unified Schools will be having a Parents Teachers Students Association meeting today, Sept. 17, 2019, starting at 5:30pm, at the Chacha Ocean View Middle School cafeteria. All parents and guardians are encouraged to attend this meeting. Child care will be provided. Call the any of the three schools at 237-3150 (KagEs), 237-3165 (COVMS), or 664-3781 (KHS) if you have any questions or concerns. (PR)

Water service interruption tomorrow

There will be a scheduled water service interruption on Capital Hill 1200 Block, 1300 Block, Wireless Ridge, Eggi Drive, Marshall Loop and for customers along Capital Hill Isa Drive to the Kagman Mobil gas station tomorrow, Sept. 18, from 8:30am to 3:30pm. Customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of water services soon after. This will allow Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s water operations personnel to perform repairs on a damaged main service lateral on Marshall Loop and Kwajelein Avenue on Capital Hill. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

Tickets now on sale for Club 200

The American Red Cross-Northern Mariana Islands Chapter will be hosting the Club 200 fundraiser on the evening of Oct. 12, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. The theme this year is Latin Nights. Door prizes will be up grabs. The grand prize is a 2019 Toyota RAV4. For the first time, *pinatas* will give party-goers a chance to capture other prizes. Tickets are on sale now for \$100 each, \$150 for VIP reserved seats and *extra-caliante* swag. Tickets are available at Joeten Stores, Red Cross board members or at the Chapter office near the airport. For additional information, call 234-3459. (PR)

MHS Class of '81 reunion meeting set

Attention to all members of the Marianas High School Class of 1981. There will be an important class reunion meeting on Sept. 26, 2019, starting at 6pm at the TechNic Gaming Center above Sher-

win Williams and across Bank of Hawaii on Middle Road.

Guam CHamoru commission meetings set

The Kumisiñ i Fino' CHamoru yan i Fina'nå'guen i Historia yan i Lina'lå' i Tao-tao Tåno' (*Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of the History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam*) will hold its September and October monthly meetings on Sept. 19, 2019, at the Department of Parks and Recreation conference room in Hagåtña, and on Sept. 26, 2019, at the Multi-Purpose Room at the Guam Museum in Hagåtña. The October meetings will be on Oct. 10 and 24, 2019, at the Department of Parks and Recreation conference room in Hagåtña. A work session is also scheduled for Oct. 17, 2019, at the DPR conference room. All work session and meetings are on Thursdays from 12:30pm to 3pm.

For more information contact Kumisiñ chair/Gé'helo' Hope Alvarez Cristobal at 483-0097 or secretary/Sikritåra Rosa Salas Palomo at 727-5522. (PR)

Call for nomination

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is accepting nominations for the 2018 Governor's Humanities Awards to

recognize outstanding contributions to the humanities by individuals and organizations in the community.

Nominees should have a notable humanities achievement in the past year, as demonstrated in any of the following four categories:

- Research and Publication in the Humanities;
- Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices;
- Preservation of CNMI History; and
- Outstanding Humanities Teacher (in both classroom and non-classroom settings).

A fifth category, Lifetime Achievement, recognizes significant contributions to the humanities over multiple decades. This award may be given posthumously.

Nomination forms and instructions are available at the

council's office in the Springs Plaza Building, Gualo Rai, or on the council website at www.nmhccouncil.org. Nominations may be made by any member of the public and are due no later than 4pm on Oct. 11, 2019.

Awards will be presented in a special ceremony in October as a part of CNMI Humanities Month (time, date and venue to be announced).

For more information, contact council staff at 235-4785. (PR)

Military trainings set

The U.S. Navy will conduct open-ocean exercises within a 10-nautical-mile radius of the coordinates 13°26'N/145°08'E and 13°42'N/144°36"E during the following dates and times:

- From 6pm-10pm, Sept. 16
- From 2pm-7pm, Sept. 17
- From 6pm-11:55pm, Sept. 18

Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25 will conduct training from 11am to 11:55pm, Sept. 16-19, at the Dandan-Malojloj training site in Inarajan.

HSC-25 will also conduct training from 8-11:55pm, Sept. 18, at Radio Barrigada.

Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity associated with the training. The public should be advised that routine helicopter training often accompanied with the use of blanks can occur during these trainings.

The Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 during the following dates and times:

- From noon to 7pm, Sept. 17 and Sept. 19
- From 3pm-6pm, Sept. 20
- From 10am to 4pm, Sept. 21

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. W-517 begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises. W-517 is contained within the following coordinates: 13° 10'N/144° 30'E, 13° 10'N/144° 42"E, 12° 50'N/144° 45"E, 11° 00'N/144° 45"E, 11° 00'N/143° 00"E, 11° 45'N/143° 00"E, and 12° 50'N/144° 30'E.

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training from 10am to 2pm, Sept. 18-19, at the island of Farallon de Medinilla. (PR)

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CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
CHC DIRECTOR OF P&S

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An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Joeten Dandan Building, 3rd Floor
P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950

Gary P. Camacho, Executive Director
Telephone (670) 664-4282
Fax (670) 235-5131

For Immediate Release
Monday, September 16, 2019

PUBLIC NOTICE

The U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) is considering a request for Federal assistance from the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) to construct the Granular Activated Carbon Filtration Systems in I Fadang (Isley Field) and Obyan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), EDA is conducting an assessment of the potential of the proposed project to affect the environment and/or historic properties.

The project will install filter systems to treat and remove the perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) contaminants found in the ground water in the Isley Field and Obyan areas. The project will be located at the Isley Field near the Saipan International Airport and the Obyan well field south of the Saipan International Airport runway. Project information is available for review on CUC's website at www.cucgov.org.

If you have any information regarding potential impacts, environmental resources, or historic properties associated with this proposed project, please provide it in writing to:

Regional Environmental Officer
U.S. Department of Commerce
Economic Development Administration
915 Second Avenue, Room 1890
Seattle, WA 98174
rdefato@eda.gov

Comments received at the EDA Regional Office by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on October 4, 2019 will be considered. A copy of the NEPA/NHPA decisional document will be available upon request at the above EDA Regional Office.

- From noon to 7pm, Sept. 17 and Sept. 19
- From 3pm-6pm, Sept. 20
- From 10am to 4pm, Sept. 21

W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 40' 00"N. W-517 begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. W-517 supports surface and aerial gunnery, missiles, and laser exercises. W-517 is contained within the following coordinates: 13° 10'N/144° 30'E, 13° 10'N/144° 42"E, 12° 50'N/144° 45"E, 11° 00'N/144° 45"E, 11° 00'N/143° 00"E, 11° 45'N/143° 00"E, and 12° 50'N/144° 30'E.

The Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 during the following dates and times:

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE BOARD OF REGENTS' REGULAR MEETING

Friday, September 20, 2019 9:30am
BOR Conference Room, Saipan Campus

AGENDA

- I. Call Meeting to Order
 1. Roll Call
 2. Review and Adoption of Agenda
 3. Review and Adoption of Minutes
 - a. June 24, 2019 (Regular Meeting)
- II. Public Comment Period

(Individuals may verbally testify on items on the agenda during the Public Comment Period. Comments should be limited to five (5) minutes. Written testimony is also accepted.)
- III. Reports and Action from Standing Committees
 1. Finance Committee
 2. Audit Committee
 3. Human Resources Committee
 4. Regent Nominating Committee
 5. Program Committee
- IV. Old Business
 1. Board Policy No. 1005: Standing Committees of the Board (Amendment)
- V. NMC Executive Reports
 1. Interim President's Report
 - a. Recovery Update
 - b. Appropriations Budget Update
 - c. Spring 2019 Graduation/Fall 2019 Enrollment Update
 - d. Legislative Update
 - e. CFO Financial Report
 - f. Accreditation Update
 - g. Academic Program Feature: Learning and Support Services (Counseling)
- VI. New Business
 1. FY2020 Operations Budget
 2. Interim President Term
- VII. Board Meeting Assessment
- VIII. Miscellaneous Items
- IX. Executive Session

(At any time during the scheduled meeting of the Board of Regents may be required to enter into executive session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential)
- X. Adjournment

/s/ Charles V. Cepeda
BOR Chairperson

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL



Bolton dismissal one more cause to worry

It ends, as things do in the Age of Trump, not with a bang or a whimper, but with a tweet: "I informed John Bolton (Monday) night that his services are no longer needed at the White House. I disagreed strongly with many of his suggestions, as did others in the Administration, and therefore ... I asked John for his resignation."

It was a rare bit of candor from a president who rarely lets truth get in the way of public pronouncement. There were indeed huge rifts between Trump, who at least on paper styles himself as opposing foreign interventions, and Bolton, who has never seen a plan for military escalation he didn't endorse.

So why did Trump ever bring on Bolton, whose instincts and track record were unmistakable, if he didn't want someone to offer sometimes uncomfortable advice on Iran, North Korea, Afghanistan and other hot spots?

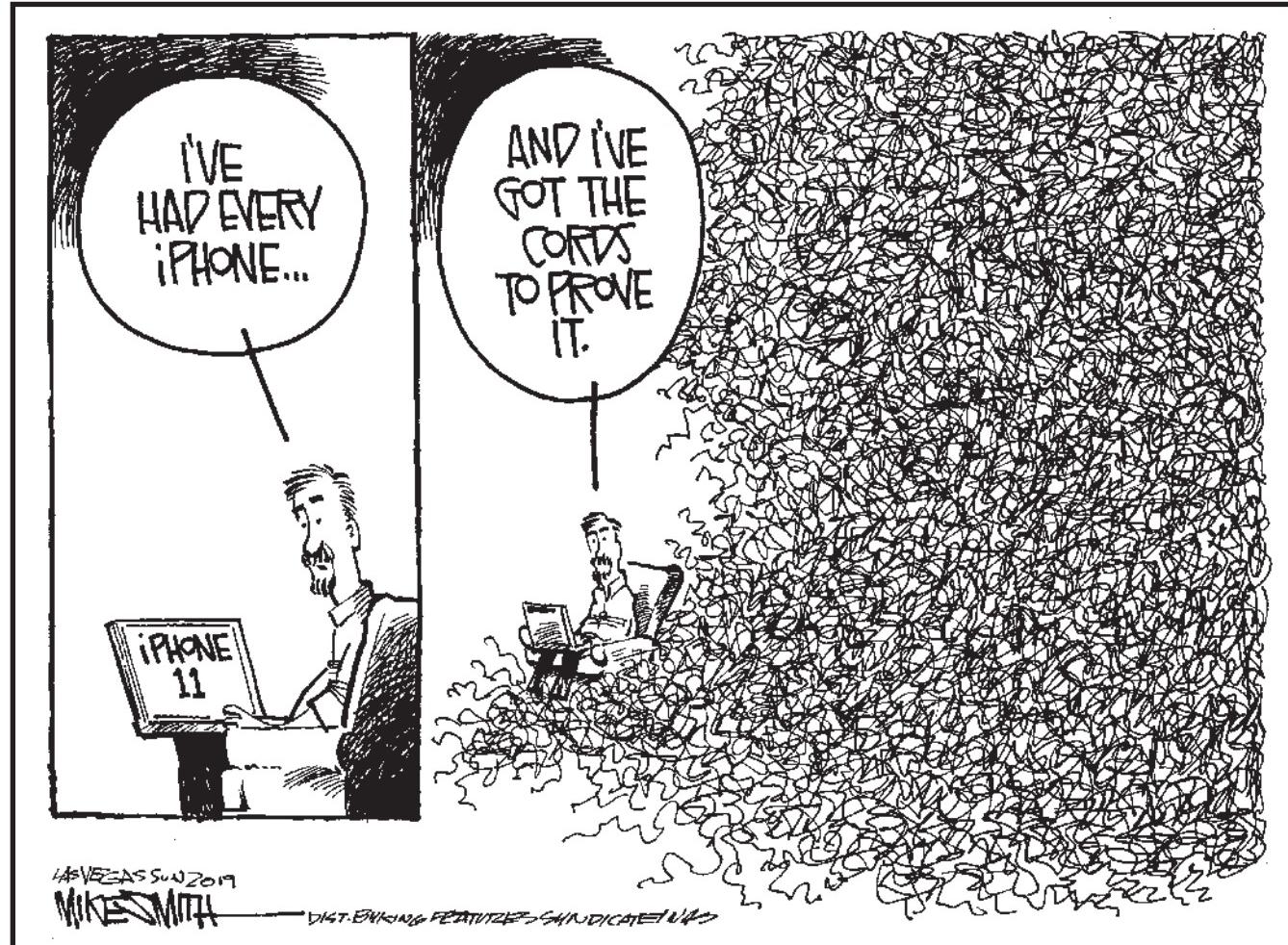
The answer is depressing, as so many things are with this administration: Trump, after firing his last national security adviser, the broadly respected H.R. McMaster, was seemingly seduced by a series of obsequious television appearances Bolton made.

As wrong as Bolton has been on many matters—his fingerprints could be seen on plans threatening American military intervention in Iran and Venezuela—his presence at least provided a healthy corrective to a president naively disposed to aligning with some of the world's worst authoritarian regimes, provided they butter him up. With no illusions, Bolton saw Vladimir Putin, Kim Jong Un and their ilk for who they were—as tyrants and enemies of American values.

That an impulsive president has now dispensed with him in order, apparently, to be more comfortably surrounded by sycophants means America's role in the world will be that much more at the mercy of the whims and ego of a mercurial president.

Hold on.

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The military's next essential tool: battery storage

By KEVIN JOHNSON and JOE BRYAN
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Most Americans don't think about the electric grid as a military asset. But the fact is that reliable access to energy is critical to fighting and winning our nation's wars.

Increasingly, that fight begins at home. The armed forces' 24/7, no-fail missions rely on U.S. military bases and the critical electric infrastructure that powers them. But determined adversaries like China and Russia have demonstrated their ability to threaten those systems through physical and cyber attacks. As our National Defense Strategy ominously states, the "homeland is no longer a sanctuary." In this rapidly evolving environment, we must invest in proven, affordable technologies like distributed generation and battery energy storage to harden our power systems against emerging threats.

Climate change is intensifying the impact of extreme weather on U.S. military installations and our country's electric grid, further necessitating this shift. A Department of Defense report released earlier this year puts it bluntly: "The effects of a changing climate are a national security issue with potential impacts to Department of Defense missions, operational plans, and installations." That report found that two-thirds of the military's priority installations are vulnerable to flooding and roughly half are vulnerable to wildfires and drought. If an installation like Norfolk Naval Station or Scott Air Force base goes dark, it creates vulnerability not just here at home but also for global missions that rely on the capabilities they provide.

The military has systems in place to manage short-term power outages, but the grid disruptions we now face are often longer and more widespread. For example, Hurricane Florence devastated Camp Lejeune, a Marine base in North Carolina last October, causing \$3.6 billion in damage. A few weeks later, Hurricane Michael ravaged Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida, with a price tag of \$5 billion. Just this past March, flooding caused \$420 million in damage to Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska, the headquarters of U.S. Strategic Command.

Even when facilities aren't hit directly, the military's electricity supply is at risk because 98% of DoD installations are connected to the same civilian electric grid as our homes and businesses. In 2016, the Pentagon reported 701 military base power outages that lasted eight hours or more. The vulnerability of our electric system is no secret, and there's evidence hostile nations are now capable of cyberattacks that could shut down large sections of the U.S. grid. Hackers working for Russia have already

accessed the control rooms of U.S. utilities "to the point where they could have thrown switches," according to an official from the Department of Homeland Security. Cyberattacks caused major blackouts in the Ukraine in 2016 and 2017 and shut down a petrochemical facility in Saudi Arabia in 2017. Experts say the same groups that honed their skills with these attacks are now probing the electric grid in the U.S.

These new security threats to our electric grid call for new solutions. The good news is we already have tools available. Battery storage, renewable energy generation, and cyber-secure control systems can combine to create the flexible, resilient and distributed electric system that our military needs. The Department of Defense has already launched projects that demonstrate how advanced energy technologies can work for military installations. Otis Air National Guard Base on Cape Cod is now fully powered by a microgrid that utilizes on-site battery storage, wind energy and a backup diesel generator. The Army's Fort Carson in Colorado installed a battery storage system in 2018 that lowers the fort's costs and increases its energy resilience.

Military bases around the country are developing plans and projects to ensure critical missions are powered in the face of nearly any disruption. Those plans increasingly include grid-scale battery storage, a resource well suited to mission assurance and the critical operations across the DoD footprint. Battery storage can provide immediate, flexible power to military installations while reducing the carbon footprint, fuel demands and recurring costs of existing backup generators. Storage technology has advanced to the point that large-scale installations can provide resilient power without straining defense budgets.

Our electric grid is the nerve center of our military and the backbone of our economy, and it is more vulnerable today than ever before. Advanced energy technologies like distributed generation and battery storage are the right tools to strengthen our military's power supply, and now is the right time to deploy them.

Kevin Johnson is president of GlidePath Federal Solutions, an independent clean energy developer. Before entering the private sector, Johnson served as a Captain in the U.S. Army. He is a Board of Director for the American Resilience Project and Clean Energy Leadership Institute, and 2013 White House Champions of Change award recipient. Readers may contact him at info@glidepath.net.

Joe Bryan is principal at energy consultancy Muswell Orange and a senior fellow with the Atlantic Council's Global Energy Center. He previously served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy. Prior to his time with Navy, Joe led investigations for the US Senate Armed Services Committee. Readers may contact him at joe.bryan@muswellorange.com.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

LITERARY NOOK**By JOEY CONNOLLY**Special to the *Saipan Tribune*

Joey aka Pepe Batbon is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.

TOAST: TERTIARY OLD AGE SENIOR TALES E.A.S.Y.: Exemplars W. H. Auden, W.B. Yeats**Brain Pan Building Plan**

*"We who are old, old and gay, O so old!
thousands of years, thousands of years,
If all were told."*

—William Butler Yeats, 1893

We who are old, old and stumbling
minds crumbling
millions of synapses, millions of synapses
month after month
There are some new ones coming around
silently bumbling
along the restless hours and sleepless nights
with a little help from those we love
we want more and more of course
thoughts tumbling
is it getting better, it is getting better
tell us so, we don't know
amygdala, cerebrum, cerebellum
mouth mumbling
can hardly tell them apart
our blood runs cold.

Answering the Easy Question is Hard

*"Only remembering the method of remembering,
Remembering only in another way."*

—W.H. Auden

To answer the easy question gets harder
Yes, he's at home. This is he.
Not sure what he's doing today. Oh me?
Probably out stargazing or writing a poem
Who is asking? What is your name?
I don't remember how I know you.
It is tasking my brain. Memory loss to blame.
My hearing is good. My knees make do.
These days I'm not too sure for how long.
Can't remember why I came in the room.
How did I use to get these things done?
Forgetting easily falling into dementia doom.
What is hot inside but covered with snow
used to be helpful but now starting to go?

Expired Meds Bad for Heads Cross Wired Brains Cause Strains

*"They're looking for you" - said hearer to horror
As he left them there..."*

—W.H. Auden, 1931

"Oh what am I doing?" I said to myself
Why did I come in here? What do I need?
As my eyes move along the bathroom shelf
now back in the kitchen do I have to return?

Can't you even imagine why you went in?
It is getting dark and the overhead light is out
the medicine cabinet is a good place to begin
my patience with myself is wearing quite thin.

"Oh what is it I needed?" I can't remember
What did it look like? What was its color?
My medicine expired last year in December
since then my memory gets duller and duller.

Think I'll go outside and get some fresh air
Can't find it? Don't need it. What do I care?

Most Americans do support the US engaging in world affairs, not retreating

A powerful belief about American views of the world has taken hold among foreign policy experts—that Americans are exhausted from global overreach and want to shed the burdens of global leadership. Arguing that American voters' "foreign policy views stink," New York Times columnist David Brooks opined that, after "Iraq and other debacles, many Americans are exhausted by the global leadership role" and "actively hostile" to key elements of U.S. foreign policy from past decades.

Brooks is not alone in this view. It animates much of foreign policy thinking, among Democrats and Republicans.

There's just one problem: This view is wrong.

The latest annual survey examining American attitudes on foreign policy conducted for the Chicago Council on Global Affairs by polling and market research firm Ipsos Public Affairs shows that, rather than supporting a retreat, large numbers of Americans favor active U.S. engagement in the world and support long-standing pillars of U.S. foreign policy—alliances, trade, democracy.

The survey, conducted June 7-20, found that American support for taking an active role in world affairs remains near record high, at 69%, compared to 30% of Americans who want to stay out of world affairs. While President Donald Trump has frequently railed against the costs to the United States of maintaining security alliances and trade agreements, a strong majority of Americans (61%) believe that the benefits of staying engaged outweigh the costs.

In a first, the survey asked what people mean by taking an "active part" in world affairs. Large majorities of Americans (70% or more) believe that engaging in trade, providing humanitarian and economic aid, promoting democracy and human rights, defending allies and participating in international organizations form part of such active engagement. And 62% believed increasing spending on defense and diplomacy is part of an active U.S. role. A bare majority (51%) say it includes intervening in other countries, while a larger majority (62%) exclude selling arms abroad from an active role.

When asked what policies would make America safer, majorities cite alliances with other countries (74%), U.S. military superiority (69%), promoting democracy and human rights (56%) and participating in international organizations (54%) as most effective.

While President Trump has consistently suggested that U.S. alliances mostly benefit allies rather than the United States, the survey finds Americans reject that view. Sixty% of Americans believe alli-

By IVO DAALDER

Chicago Tribune

Ivo Daalder is president of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and a former U.S. ambassador to NATO.



ances in Asia are mutually beneficial or mostly benefit the U.S., and 64% believe this when it comes to alliances in Europe.

And Americans are willing to use force to back up these alliance commitments. Fifty-eight% favor using U.S. troops to defend South Korea if North Korea invaded it, and 54% do so in case Russia invades a NATO ally such as Latvia, Lithuania or Estonia. They also believe we should increase or maintain U.S. troops in South Korea (69%) and Japan (59%). The largest majority yet (73%) believe NATO is essential for European security, and more Americans (78%) believe that we should maintain or increase our commitment to NATO than at any time since the question was first asked in 1974.

It isn't just alliances that receive record levels of support. So does international trade. The survey showed 87% of Americans believe international trade is good for the U.S. economy (up from 59% just three years ago), and 83% think trade is good for American companies (up from 57% in 2016).

What is significant about all of these findings is that despite the political turmoil and deep partisan divisions on many issues, when it comes to America's role in the world there is a large degree of agreement and support among all Americans. Alliances, the bedrock of American military engagement abroad since World War II, enjoy strong and growing public support.

What Americans reject is using force in other countries to try to resolve conflicts. The bitter experiences in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria have left Americans weary of interventionism.

But this concern is not the same as wanting to retreat from the world. Even after decades of war, a major financial crisis, and new challenges to U.S. powers, Americans strongly favor maintaining a leadership role in the world.

Enough with violent white supremacists

A t some point in the late 1960s, you could be forgiven for thinking that the FBI was in charge of the KKK.

It conducted an operation that infiltrated, manipulated and ran the group into the ground. With violent white hate again on the rise, we should take some inspiration—even if the methods can't be replicated—from the FBI's past grappling with racist extremists.

If there were any doubt that the country has a white nationalist problem, the shocking attack on an El Paso, Texas, Walmart should remove it. These self-radicalizing freaks, a subset of the broader mass-shooting phenomenon, take inspiration from prior acts of vicious mayhem and cheer high body counts on internet message boards. They are domestic subversives and terrorists, and deserve to be treated as such.

There is no doubt that if we had suffered a string of massacres on our soil carried out by Islamic radicals, we'd do everything in our power to diminish and hopefully eradicate the danger—indeed, we have. The national response to racist extremists should show the same alacrity and resolve, while acknowledging that they represent a different, more-difficult-to-counter threat than the old Klan.

In 1964, President Lyndon Johnson told FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover to go after the Klan as he had the Communists. Running until 1971 and involving 26 field offices, COINTELPRO-White Hate targeted groups and people deemed violent threats, not their ideology per se.

The effort was comprehensive and no-holds-barred. In his history of the FBI, Tim Weiner writes, "The FBI dangled small fortunes before potential KKK informers, offered outright bribes to Klansmen who could serve as double agents inside state and local police forces, planted bugs and wiretaps in Klaverns, carried out black-bag jobs to steal membership lists and (on at least one occasion) dynamite caches."

The FBI worked to preempt violent acts, and gained an enormous influence over Klan groups. The New Orleans office was so successful at degrading the Louisiana chapter of the UKA that the

By RICH LOWRY

King Features Synd., Inc.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.



office's concern became propping the group up, lest its disintegration loosen the FBI's control.

Overall, Klan membership shrank from an estimated 14,000 members in 1964 to 4,300 in 1971. Per Shelton himself, "the FBI's counterintelligence program hit us in membership and weakened us for about 10 years."

Of course, the contemporary FBI obviously isn't going to take over the "alt-right," nor should we want it to. The abuses of the COINTELPRO programs—the FBI also targeted civil-rights groups and the New Left, among others—became notorious when they were exposed in the 1970s.

There are also practical obstacles to the FBI duplicating its anti-Klan work. The Klan was an organization, whereas today's white supremacists are free-floating haters posting anonymously on the internet.

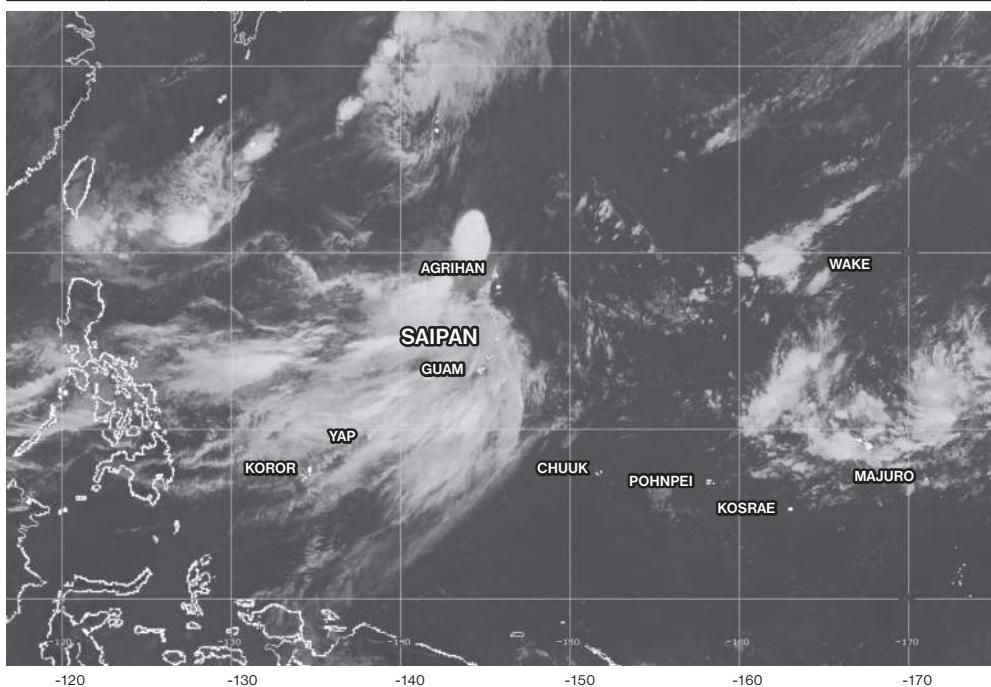
Yet the FBI needs to be intensely focused on this threat. The bureau should take an intelligence-based approach. It should monitor sewer message boards like 8chan, the forum for white-supremacist propaganda. Posters who cross from First Amendment-protected speech to incitement should be prosecuted. The FBI should interview anyone expressing sympathy with terrorism—just as it does with suspected Islamic extremists—and surveil such persons as appropriate and permitted under the law.

El Paso was an outrage, and surely not the last. We need to react accordingly.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. North to northwest winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
86°	77°	86°	77°	86°
78°	86°	78°	86°	78°



PICTURE TIME: 7:18 AM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

At 620 AM, visible satellite imagery showed the exposed center of TS Peipah (17W) about 105 miles NNE of Agrihan near 20.3N and 146.1E. Thick cloudiness southwest of the center still covers the Marianas, and radar shows widespread light rain and a few embedded showers mainly over and west of the islands. West winds are still gusting to around 30 knots at times, and combined seas are around 12 feet, though the Tanapag buoy at Saipan spikes a little higher at times.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	82°	/	77°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	84°	/	79°
Yap	Thunderstorm	86°	/	79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	84°	/	80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	87°	/	78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	87°	/	78°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	88°	/	82°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Showers	61°	/	52°
Beijing	Sunny	75°	/	54°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	91°	/	81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	90°	/	79°
London	Mostly Sunny	66°	/	46°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	81°	/	64°
Manila	Thunderstorm	82°	/	77°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	64°	/	45°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	89°	/	78°
New York	Sunny	77°	/	61°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	82°	/	68°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	72°	/	50°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	82°	/	66°
Rome	Sunny	88°	/	63°
Salem	Sunny	97°	/	70°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	69°	/	58°
Seoul	Sunny	77°	/	54°
Tokyo	Showers	79°	/	66°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	81°	/	61°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:25 AM	LOW TIDE	0.56	
9:17 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.80	
3:38 PM	LOW TIDE	0.60	
9:26 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.80	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET	
Today	6:05 AM	6:17 PM	
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:16 PM	
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:16 PM	
Friday	6:05 AM	6:15 PM	
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:14 PM	

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	8:14 AM	8:23 PM
Wednesday	-	9:02 AM	9:02 PM
Thursday	-	9:52 AM	9:43 PM
Friday	-	10:43 AM	10:27 PM
Saturday	-	11:37 AM	11:16 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2019

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:57am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:07am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4	UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily	7C3402	9:30am	3:10pm	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	1, 2, 3, 5, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3403	5:00am	8:30am	4	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	5:00am	8:50am	6	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 6, 7
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	4, 7	7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	3, 5
7C3401	4:10pm	8:10pm	1, 2, 3, 5, 6				
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (GHG)				HANGZHOU (GHG)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6	3U8645	8:10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	1		

Green Gala honors Burgess, PDM Promoters, Inc., Hopwood



Awardees of the 2019 Green Gala: From left, Hopwood Middle School, Environmental Heroes Award, represented by principal Dr. Rizalina Liwag, PDM Promoters, Inc. (Kiponchi Restaurant), Green Business of the Year Award, represented by Kiponchi Restaurant CEO and director Misako Kamata; and Tracy Burgess, Environmental Champion Award.

IVA MAURIN

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With this year's Green Gala centered on the "Bring Back our Trees" campaign, the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance

honored three environmental tree-planting heroes—Tracy Burgess, PDM Promoters, Inc. (Kiponchi Restaurant), and Hopwood Middle School—at Friday evening's gala at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

BEH temporarily shuts down 2 in August

By MARC A. VENUS
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Bureau of Environmental Health temporarily shut down Ladder Beach Restaurant and JD Store II in August for serious violations of health and sanitation purposes. Both have since reopened.

Ladder Beach Restaurant was closed down for one day, Aug. 7, to allow BEH to re-inspect the establishment. The restaurant passed the second inspection and was able to operate the next day.

JD Store II voluntarily closed its doors last Aug. 22 and would later open and pass the BEH's standards five days later.

The BEH makes sanitary inspections of retail food and drink serving establishments every month. BEH provides the names of establishments by inspection grade and the names of establishments that are ordered closed. For these establishments, the suspension date and the date they were certified to resume are also provided.

BEH's classification for food safety rating are Grade A (90-100), Grade B (80-89), Grade C (70-79), and closure/suspension (69 and lower).

Other establishments inspected by BEH for August, with their corresponding grades, are as follows:

Grade A

- 6 JMS Store, Garapan
- Green Leaves Store, Chalan Piao
- Moby Dick Restaurant, Garapan

- I Love Saipan, San Roque
- Latte Built, San Jose
- Coca Cola Wholesale, Chalan Laulau
- Foremost Wholesale, Chalan Laulau
- Blue Sky Supermarket, Chalan Piao
- Blue Sky Wholesale, Chalan Piao
- Blue Sky Butcher, Chalan Piao
- Surf Club Restaurant, Chalan Kanoa
- Surf Club Bar, Chalan Kanoa
- Day Star Fish Mart, Chalan Kanoa
- Chalan Kiya Mobil Mart, Chalan Kiya
- 15. 99 Cents Market, Garapan
- 16. 99 Cents Water Refilling Station, Garapan
- 17. Club 88, Garapan

Grade B

- Canton Restaurant, Garapan
- Vegas Snack Bar, Chalan Laulau
- Grace Restaurant, Susupe
- Taiwan Restaurant, Garapan
- Mo's Restaurant, Chalan Kanoa
- Bistro Cafe, Gualo Rai
- JD Store, Chalan Kiya
- Susan's Catering, San Vicente
- 99 Cents Butcher, Garapan

Grade C

- Marg's Bakery, Susupe

For more information, contact the BEH at (670) 664-4870/72/73, or email BEH director John Tagabuel at john.tagabuel@dph.gov.mp.

Green Gala Environmental Champion awardee Tracy Burgess, who is an environmental science teacher at Saipan Southern High School, was recognized for demonstrating "extraordinary commitment to the environment and conservation of our natural resources."

Burgess teaches and actively engages her students in environmental and community services. One example: "I made it mandatory in my class to get the kids be active outside of the classroom for at least 85 hours [and dedicate it for the environment].

The Green Business of the Year Award went to PDM Promoters, Inc. (Kiponchi Restaurant/Saipan Awaodori team). Kiponchi Restaurant CEO and director Misako Kamata received the award.

PDM Promoters, Inc. was recognized for embracing the green culture throughout its business, which has been initiating monthly cleanups in Garapan, with the help of student volunteers. Aside from this, they also maintain plants and trees and install storm drains.

Hopwood Middle School was this year's recipient of the Environmental Heroes Award.

Despite Super Typhoon



Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance executive director Roberta K. Guerrero was called on-stage as major sponsors were acknowledged at the 2019 Green Gala held Friday, at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in Garapan.

IVA MAURIN



Tracy Burgess is awarded as this year's Green Gala Environmental Champion.

IVA MAURIN



Hopwood Middle School principal Dr. Rizalina Liwag receives the 2019 Green Gala Environmental Heroes Award on behalf of the school.

IVA MAURIN



Kiponchi Restaurant CEO and director Misako Kamata receives the 2019 Green Gala Green Business of the Year Award on behalf of PDM Promoters, Inc.

IVA MAURIN



Flame Tree TV was one of the many companies that supported last Friday's Green Gala at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. Proceeds of the gala will support the many environmental programs of the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Yutu's complete devastation of the Hopwood campus, its students have pulled together and implemented tree planting around their campus, as well as a recycling initiative to keep plastic bottles out of the ocean and out of the landfill.

Hopwood teacher Vinni Orsini recalls how the school, upon getting their tent campus, made it a mission to beautify the campus. The initiative converted what could have been a "very dusty school" into one with "beautiful grass that has been growing really well."

"When we got our tent campus, we thought the most would be to beautify it with ... flowers and plants," Orsini

said. "We started a program where students can learn how to grow plants and, at the same time, learn how to garden and landscape."

Hopwood's principal Dr. Rizalina Liwag, who received the award on behalf of the school, also dedicated the award to teachers who pooled their efforts to make sure that they provide a beautiful environment for the students.

The Green Gala is an annual fundraising event organized by MINA to fund its many environmental programs that protect and preserve the island's natural resources. For more information about MINA programs, contact 670-233-7333 (REEF).

Business

Topnotch relocates to Quartermaster

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Topnotch, a longtime supplier of trophies, plaques, and medals, has relocated from Chinatown to Quartermaster Road.

The company said they decided to move to a new location after their former landlord decided to renovate the office building they used to lease.

Topnotch made the move just this past June and management said they couldn't be happier with their new office as it has more space for the business and more parking slots for customers.

The company promises to provide the same kind of exemplary service and expert craftsmanship at its new location.

Management said the most fulfilling part of running a company like Topnotch is becoming part of the success of the people of the CNMI.

"We are in the business of supplying trophies, plaques, and medals so in a way we share in that person or group's success indirectly and we're always proud of that," it said.

Through the years, Topnotch has also been entrusted with secrets only a select few know, as the supplier of the awards, trophies, plaques, and medals.

"Sometimes people would call us asking who is the valedictorian of this particular



Topnotch is now located along Quartermaster Road.

school or who won employee of the year of this agency or company, but we keep that information with strict confidentiality," management said.

Like any other business on island, the combination of Super Typhoon Yutu and government austerity measures has also negatively affected Topnotch's sales the past few months. Another challenge Topnotch constantly faces are rushed orders. Ideally, they need a full week to meet an order. However, there have been instances in the past that gave

them only a few hours. "We had to do it since we value our clients and just work doubly hard to fulfill the orders."

Topnotch has been around since 1993 starting off as a clothes boutique shop before becoming a supplier of trophies, plaques, and medals in 1998.

For the past 20 years Topnotch has supplied the award needs of the CNMI government, Public School System, Saipan Little League, McDonald's All-Schools Track and Field Championships, Northern Mariana Islands Football Association, Tumon Bay Music Festival, Northern Marianas Sports Association, and TanHoldings.

Topnotch is open from Monday to Friday, 9am-12 and 1pm-5pm, and Saturday 10am-12 and 1pm-4pm. It is closed on Sundays.

For orders and for more information, call Topnotch at 233-2200.

MARK RABAGO



Topnotch has been the No. 1 local supplier of trophies, plaques, and medals since 1998.

MARK RABAGO



The most fulfilling part of running a company like Topnotch is becoming part of the success of the people of the CNMI.

MARK RABAGO

Purdue Pharma files for bankruptcy as part of settlement

By GEOFF MULVIGHILL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Purdue Pharma, the company that made billions selling the prescription painkiller OxyContin, filed for bankruptcy in White Plains, New York, days after reaching a tentative settlement with many of the state and local governments suing it over the toll of opioids.

The filing was anticipated before and after the tentative deal, which could be worth up to \$12 billion over time, was struck.

"This settlement framework avoids wasting hundreds of millions of dollars and years on protracted litigation," Steve Miller, chairman of Purdue's board of directors, said in a statement, "and instead will provide billions of dollars and critical resources to communities across the country trying to cope with the opioid crisis. We will continue to work with state attorneys general and other plaintiff representatives to finalize and implement this agreement as quickly as possible."

But legal battles still lie ahead for Stamford, Connecticut-based Purdue, which is spending millions on legal costs as it defends itself in lawsuits from 2,600 government and other entities. About half the states have not signed onto the proposal. And several of them plan to object to the settlement in bankruptcy court and to continue litigation in other courts against members of the Sackler family, which owns the company. The family agreed to pay at least \$3 billion in the settlement plus contribute the company itself, which is to be reformed with its future profits going to the company's creditors.

In a statement, the families of late company owners Mortimer and Raymond Sackler said they have "deep compassion for the victims of the opioid crisis" and believe the settlement framework "is an historic step toward providing critical resources that address a tragic public health situation."

Objections came over the amount of the deal, which

some officials say will not reach close to the \$12 billion mark, and because it means the company won't be found liable by a jury or judge.

Purdue chairman Miller said the company has not admitted wrongdoing and does not intend to. "The alternative is to not settle but instead to resume the litigation," he said on a conference call with reporters. "The resumption of litigation would rapidly diminish all the resources of the company and would be lose-lose-lose all the way around. Whatever people might wish for is not on the table now."

Because so many states balked at the settlement, it could complicate the bankruptcy process. The Sackler family members said they're still trying to get more states to sign on.

"We are hopeful that in time, those parties who are not yet supportive will ultimately shift their focus to the critical resources that the settlement provides to people and problems that need them," they said.

No deal: Auto workers strike against GM in contract dispute

DETROIT (AP)—More than 49,000 members of the United Auto Workers walked off General Motors factory floors or set up picket lines early Monday as contract talks with the company deteriorated into a strike.

Workers shut down 33 manufacturing plants in nine states across the U.S., as well as 22 parts distribution warehouses.

It wasn't clear how long the walkout would last, with the union saying GM has budged little in months of talks while GM said it made substantial offers including higher wages and factory investments.

It's the first national strike by the union since a two-day walkout in 2007 that had little impact on the company.

UAW Vice President Terry Dittes, the union's top GM negotiator, said a strike is the union's last resort but is needed because both sides are far apart in negotiating a new four-year contract. The union, he said Saturday, does not take a strike lightly.

"We clearly understand the hardship that it may cause," he said. "We are standing up for fair wages, we are standing up for affordable quality health

care, we are standing up for our share of the profits."

GM, however, said it offered pay raises and \$7 billion worth of U.S. factory investments resulting in 5,400 new positions, a minority of which would be filled by existing employees. GM would not give a precise number. The company also said it offered higher profit sharing, "nationally leading" health benefits and an \$8,000 payment to each worker upon ratification.

Because public statements from both sides conflict, it's hard to tell how long the strike will last, said Kristin Dzicsek, vice president of labor and industry at the Center for Automotive Research, an industry think tank. The length "depends on how far apart they really are and where the lines in the sand are drawn," she said.

Talks were scheduled to resume at 10 a.m. EDT on Monday.

The union's contract with GM expired Saturday night, but pacts with the company's crosstown rivals, Ford and Fiat Chrysler, were extended indefinitely. The union has picked GM as its target com-

pany this year, and any deal it negotiates will be used as a template for the others. GM was picked because it's the most profitable of the three, and because its plans to close four U.S. factories have angered union members.

On Sunday, about 200 plant-level leaders voted unanimously to strike against GM if no deal could be reached by Sunday night. Although talks were halted over the weekend, UAW spokesman Brian Rothenberg said there was still dialogue.

Before the talks broke off, GM offered to build a new all-electric pickup truck at a factory in Detroit that is slated to close next year, according to a person who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. The person wasn't authorized to disclose details of the negotiations.

The automaker also offered to open an electric vehicle battery plant in Lordstown, Ohio, where it has a huge factory that has already stopped making cars and will be closed. The new factory would be in addition to a proposal to make electric vehicles for a company called Workhorse, the person said.

Nation

Biden on racism: Whites ‘can never fully understand’

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP)—Visiting a black church bombed by the Ku Klux Klan during the civil rights era, Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden on Sunday framed current racial tensions as part of an enduring struggle that is older than the nation.

“In a centuries long campaign of violence, fear, trauma, brought upon black people in this country, the domestic terrorism of white supremacy has been the antagonist of our highest ideals since before the founding of this country,” Biden told the 16th Street Baptist Church congregation in downtown Birmingham as they commemorated the 56th anniversary of the bombing that killed four black girls in 1963.

“It’s in the wake of these before-and-after moments,” Biden added, “when the choice between good and evil

is starker.”

Biden’s appearance comes at an inflection point for Democrats’ 2020 leader in the polls. He is trying to capitalize on his strength among older black voters while navigating criticism from some African American and other nonwhite leaders, particularly younger ones, who take a skeptical view of the 76-year-old white man’s willingness and ability to address systemic racism.

During his 20 minutes at the pulpit, Biden condemned institutional racism as the direct legacy of slavery and lamented that the nation has “never lived up to” the ideals of equality written into its founding documents. But then he added a more personal note—perhaps the closest he would come to addressing his detractors. “Those who are white try,” Biden said, “but we

can never fully understand.”

The former vice president called out the names of the bombing victims — Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson and Cynthia Wesley—and he drew nods of affirmation as he warned that “the same poisonous ideology that lit the fuse on 16th Street” has yielded more recent tragedies, including in 2015 at a black church in South Carolina, in 2018 at a Jewish synagogue in Pittsburgh and in August at an El Paso, Texas, Wal-Mart frequented by Latino immigrants.

The Birmingham church, Biden said, offers an example to those communities and a nation he said must recommit itself to “giving hate no safe harbor—demonizing no one, not the poor, the powerless, the immigrant or the ‘other.’”

From his long time in government, first as a senator and then vice president to Barack Obama, the first black president, Biden has deep ties in the black community. Though Biden didn’t mention President Donald Trump in his remarks, he has made withering critiques of the president’s rhetoric and policies on race and immigration a central feature of his candidacy.

Yet Biden sometimes draws searing appraisals from younger nonwhite activists who point to complexities in his record. That includes his references to working productively alongside segregationist senators in the 1970s to distrust over his lead role in a 1994 crime law that critics frame as partially responsible for mass incarceration, especially black men.



AP

Democratic presidential candidate former Vice President Joe Biden speaks to members of the media following a visit with students on the campus of Texas Southern University Friday, Sept. 13, 2019, in Houston.

Rise in health uninsured may be linked to immigrants' fears

WASHINGTON (AP)—When the Census Bureau reported an increase in the number of people without health insurance in America, it sent political partisans reaching for talking points on the Obama-era health law and its travails. But the new numbers suggest that fears of the Trump administration’s immigration crackdown may be a more significant factor in the slippage.

Overall, the number of uninsured in the U.S. rose by 1.9 million people in 2018, the agency report this past week. It was the first jump in nearly a decade. An estimated 27.5 million people, or 8.5% of the population, lacked coverage the entire year. Such increases are considered unusual in a strong economy.

The report showed that a drop in low-income people enrolled in Medicaid was the most significant factor behind the higher number of uninsured people.

Hispanics were the only major racial and ethnic category with a significant increase in their uninsured rate. It rose by 1.6 percentage points in 2018, with nearly 18% lacking coverage. There was no significant change in health insurance for non-Hispanic whites, blacks and Asians.

“Some of the biggest declines in coverage are coming among Latinos and non-citizens,” said Larry Levitt of the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation, who tracks

trends in health insurance coverage. “These declines in coverage are coming at a time when the Trump administration has tried to curb immigration and discourage immigrants from using public benefits like Medicaid.”

Health care is the defining issue for Democrats vying for their party’s 2020 presidential nomination. Candidates wasted no time in Thursday’s debate highlighting the split between progressives such as Sens. Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren, who favor a government-run system for all, including people without legal permission to be in the country, and moderates like former Vice President Joe Biden. He supports building on the Affordable Care Act and adding a new public plan option, open to U.S. citizens and legal residents.

Although the candidates did not dwell on the uninsured rate, Democratic congressional leaders have said the census figures show the administration’s “sabotage” of the Obama health law.

The administration issued a statement blaming the law’s high premiums, unaffordable for solid middle-class people who do not qualify for financial assistance.

NY moves to enact statewide flavored e-cig ban

NEW YORK (AP)—New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo is pushing to enact a statewide ban on the sale of flavored e-cigarettes amid growing health concerns connected to vaping, especially among young people.

The Democrat announced Sunday that the state health commissioner would be making a recommendation this week to the state Public Health and Health Planning Council. The council can issue emergency regulations that would go into effect as soon as they are voted on and start being enforced in as soon as two weeks, following a short grace period for retailers, officials said.

In announcing the action, Cuomo sharply criticized the flavors that are for sale, like bubble gum and cotton candy.

“These are obviously targeted to young people and highly effective at targeting young people,” he said.

Officials pointed to a significant increase of e-cigarettes

by young people, which they said was driven by the flavors.

According to data from the state health department, nearly 40% of high school seniors and 27% of high school students overall in the state use e-cigarettes. High school use went from 10.5% in 2014 to 27.4% in 2018.

Nationwide, the 2019 National Youth Tobacco Survey showed traditional cigarette usage continuing to fall for students in 6th to 12th grade but vaping continuing to surge higher.

The biggest player in the industry, Juul Labs Inc., said it was reviewing the announcement, but agreed with the need for action.

The ban would not impact tobacco- and menthol-flavored e-cigarettes, but Cuomo said the Department of Health would continue evaluating and that could change.

Not including menthol brought criticism for Cuomo from some quarters.

Cuomo “had the opportunity to take decisive action, but instead left menthol e-cigarettes on the marketplace,” said Harold Wimmer, president and CEO of the American Lung Association, in an email statement.

“While today’s announcement was well-intentioned, it will drive our youth to use menthol flavored products in even greater numbers.”

Cuomo signed legislation earlier this year raising the statewide smoking age to 21, and earlier this month signed a mandate that requires state anti-tobacco campaigns to also include vaping.

Vaping is also under a federal spotlight, as health authorities look into hundreds of breathing illnesses reported in people who have used e-cigarettes and other vaping devices.

In his first public comments on vaping, President Donald Trump proposed a similar federal ban last week.

The FDA has been able to

ban vaping flavors since 2016, but hasn’t taken the step, with officials looking into whether flavors could help cigarette smokers to quit.

The global market is estimated to have a value of as much as \$11 billion. The industry has spent a lot of money in states around the country to lobby against state-level flavored e-cigarette bans, in states including Hawaii, California, Maine and Connecticut.

Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer earlier this month ordered that state’s health department to come out with emergency rules to prohibit flavored e-cigarette sales.

Juul reiterated Sunday the agreeable stance it had taken following Trump’s proposal.

In an emailed statement, spokesman Austin Finan said, “We strongly agree with the need for aggressive category-wide action on flavored products,” and “will fully comply with local laws and the final FDA policy when effective.”

Asia

HONG KONG (AP)—Police fired chemical-laced blue water and tear gas at protesters who lobbed Molotov cocktails outside the Hong Kong government office complex Sunday, as violence flared anew after thousands of pro-democracy supporters marched through downtown in defiance of a police ban.

A mixed crowd of hardcore protesters in black and wearing masks, along with families with children, spilled into the roads of the Causeway Bay shopping belt and marched for over 2 kilometers (1.2 miles) to the central business district. Some waved U.S. and British flags, while others carried posters reiterating their calls for democratic reforms.

Police had turned down a request by the Civil Human Rights Front to hold the march, but the demonstrators were undeterred, as they've been all summer.

"I feel this is our duty. The government wants to block us with the ban, but I want to say that the people will not be afraid," said one protester, Winnie Leung, 50.

The march disrupted traffic, and many shops, including the Sogo department store in Causeway Bay, one of Hong Kong's largest department stores, closed their doors.

Protesters burned Chinese flags and tore down banners congratulating China's ruling Communist Party, which will celebrate its 70th year in power on Oct. 1. In familiar scenes, some protesters smashed glass windows and surveillance cameras at a subway station exit.

Hundreds of protesters later targeted the government office

VIOLENCE FLARES after Hong Kong protesters defy POLICE BAN

AP
A man braves tear gas fired by the police in Hong Kong, Sunday, Sept. 15, 2019.



complex, throwing bricks and gasoline bombs through police barriers. Police responded by firing volleys of tear gas and using water cannon trucks to spray chemical-laced water as well as blue liquid that helped them identify offenders, in a repeat of confrontational scenes from the last several weeks of the protests.

Protesters retreated but regrouped in the nearby Wan Chai neighborhood, setting fires outside a subway station exit and on the streets. They fled again after riot police advanced and the cat-and-mouse battles went on for a few hours before calm returned.

Police fired tear gas again later in the nearby North Point area after protesters obstructed traffic after brawling there earlier with pro-government supporters.

Hospital authorities said eight people were injured throughout the day, including three in serious condition.

The protests were triggered in June by an extradition bill that many saw as an example of China's increasing intrusion and at chipping away at Hong Kong residents' freedoms and rights, many of which are not accorded to people in mainland China.

Hong Kong's government

promised this month to withdraw the bill, which would have allowed some criminal suspects to be sent to mainland China for trial, but protesters have widened their demands to include direct elections for the city's leaders and police accountability.

More than 1,300 people have been arrested amid increasing clashes between protesters and police, who demonstrators have ac-

cused of abuses.

The unrest has battered Hong Kong's economy, which was already reeling from the U.S.-China trade war. It is also seen as an embarrassment to Beijing, which has accused foreign powers of fomenting the unrest.

Earlier Sunday, hundreds of protesters waved British flags, sang "God Save the Queen" and chanted "UK save Hong Kong" outside the British Consulate as they stepped up calls for international support for their campaign.

With banners declaring "one country, two systems is dead," they repeated calls for Hong Kong's former colonial ruler to ensure the city's autonomy is upheld under agreements made when Britain ceded power to China in 1997.

Demonstrators held similar rallies Sept. 1 at the British Consulate and last weekend at the U.S. Consulate.

On Saturday, pro-democracy protesters and supporters of the central government in Beijing clashed at a Hong Kong shopping mall and several public places. Police arrested more than a dozen people and hospital authorities said 25 were injured.

The clashes amid the mid-autumn festival holiday came after several nights of peaceful rallies that featured protesters belting out a new protest song in mass singing at shopping malls. Thousands of people also carried lanterns with pro-democracy messages in public areas and formed illuminated human chains on two of the city's peaks on Friday night to mark the major Chinese festival.

Pope's visit to Thailand will also be a family reunion

UDON THANI, Thailand

(AP)—Catholics in Thailand are celebrating the official announcement of the first papal visit in 35 years, but one 77-year-old nun in a far-flung corner of the country has a connection that makes the occasion particularly special.

Pope Francis is due to arrive in Thailand on Nov. 20 for a four-day visit, the first leg of an Asia trip that will also take him to Japan, Catholic officials announced Friday.

The pontiff's arrival will lead to a reinvigoration of belief among the nearly 400,000 faithful here. But for Sister Ana Rosa Sivori, it also means the pleasure of a family reunion.

At St. Mary's girls' school in Udon Thani, about 570 kilometers (355 miles) northeast of Bangkok, the pupils have only recently realized their unassuming vice principal's con-

nnection to the pope.

Originally from Buenos Aires in Argentina, Sister Ana Rosa came to Thailand in 1966 and has worked as a missionary in several parts of the country. She shares a great-grandfather with Jorge Mario Bergoglio, who, six years ago, became Pope Francis. She and the pontiff are second cousins.

As word of a planned papal visit spread ahead of the official announcement, Sister Ana Rosa went from being an almost invisible presence to being at the center of increasingly excited attention in her community.

"Many people who are not Catholics, they are asking me every time. Is he coming? When is he coming? He, will he be coming? Because, it means that they are interested. They want to see him. They want to meet him," she said.

"Then, of course, for the

Catholics, it would be a push to be a good Catholic, to be good Christians."

Two years ago, Pope Francis paid a historic visit to Myanmar. It came at the height of the Rohingya Muslim crisis. Myanmar's army carried out human rights abuses against the ethnic minority, and the call to hold officials responsible led to intense scrutiny of whom the pope met and what he said.

Hundreds of thousands flocked to see the pope on that visit, including many who traveled from neighboring Thailand—but not Sister Ana Rosa. She said she didn't want to take up his time.

She insists, however, that the two are close, and stay in touch. He is "old school," she says, never sending emails and instead writing letters by hand and dispatching them through the Vatican's embassy

in Bangkok.

The last time the cousins met face to face was two years ago at the Vatican.

"I will be glad to see him, and he will be glad to see me also," she said, smiling broadly. "We will have the chance to see each other and have the chance to talk a little bit."

In 1984, John Paul II became the first pope to visit Thailand when he spent two days in country, partly to thank the kingdom for sheltering refugees who fled wars in neighboring countries. He visited a refugee camp to spread a message of hope.

The Catholic mission to Thailand began 350 years ago, but the country remains overwhelmingly Buddhist, with Catholics accounting for less than 1% of the population.

Sister Ana Rosa said she is in Thailand to stay — on papal orders.

12 dead, 25 missing in boat accident

HYDERABAD, India (AP)—

A sightseeing boat capsized on a swollen river in southern India on Sunday, killing 12 people and leaving 25 others missing, an official said.

Andhra Pradesh state's home minister, M. Sucharita, said there were 61 people — 50 passengers and 11 crew members, all of them Indian nationals — on board the boat when it capsized on the Godavari river.

A search operation was underway to try to find the missing people.

Twenty-four people have been rescued so far while 25 others are missing, Sucharita said.

The accident occurred near Kachuluru village in East Godavari district, 380 kilometers (236 miles) east of the state's capital, Hyderabad. The boat was heading from Singana-

palli to Papikondalu, a famous tourist spot.

Sucharita said tour boats had been barred from operating on the route following the recent flooding of the river and it was not clear how the boat that capsized had managed to take out the tourists.

"Stern action will be taken against the culprits," Sucharita said.

Apart from tourists, residents in the area depend on boats and ferries to travel between villages on the banks of the Godavari.

In May 2018, 30 people were killed when a similar boat carrying local people capsized not far from the scene of Sunday's accident. A few months later, a boat carrying 80 tourists caught fire when a cooking gas cylinder exploded, but there were no casualties.

World



Boris Johnson likens himself to the Hulk in Brexit fight

AP
Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson shakes hands with a member of the public during a visit to Doncaster Market, in Doncaster, Northern England, Friday Sept. 13, 2019.

LONDON (AP)—British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has compared himself to the Hulk in a newspaper interview emphasizing his determination to take Britain out of the European Union next month.

Johnson faces considerable legal and political hurdles but told the Mail on Sunday he will meet the Oct. 31 deadline no matter what.

"The madder Hulk gets, the stronger Hulk gets," he told the widely read tabloid, invoking the comic book and film character known for formidable but

destructive strength.

Johnson remains defiant even though Parliament has passed a law requiring him to seek an extension to the deadline if no deal is reached by mid-October. He has also lost his working majority in Parliament and been told by Scotland's highest court that his decision to suspend Parliament was illegal.

Johnson portrays himself as more convinced than ever that Britain will break with the EU at the end of October.

He will have a lunchtime meeting in Luxembourg

on Monday with European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker to try to modify the Irish backstop that has been a main sticking point, but EU leaders did not seem impressed by Johnson's invocation of the Hulk.

The European Parliament's Brexit coordinator, Guy Verhofstadt, said the comments showed a lack of maturity.

"Even to Trumpian standards the Hulk comparison is infantile," he tweeted. "Is the EU supposed to be scared by this? The British public impressed?"

Juncker, who has downplayed hopes of a breakthrough at Monday's meeting, also expressed alarm that many people in Britain seem to feel a British departure without a deal with the EU would be a positive thing.

"It would be terrible chaos," he said in an interview with Germany's Deutschlandfunk radio. "And we would need years to put things back in order. Anyone who loves his country, and I assume that there are still patriots in Britain, would not want to wish his country such a fate."

The Oct. 31 deadline looms large because Johnson has not said he will seek another extension if no deal is reached, despite legislation passed by

Parliament shortly before it was suspended.

Britain's Supreme Court this week will rule on whether Johnson overstepped the law when he shut the legislature for a crucial five-week period.

The Liberal Democrats, who have been enjoying a revival, voted overwhelmingly at their party conference Sunday to end the Brexit process entirely if they come to power.

Party leader Jo Swinson said Article 50, which triggered Brexit, would be revoked if she becomes prime minister.

The party gained an important member Saturday with the defection of Sam Gyimah, a former Conservative minister. He is the sixth legislator to switch allegiance and join the

Liberal Democrats this year.

Johnson also continues to take flak from former Prime Minister David Cameron, who called the 2016 referendum on Brexit.

Cameron said in an interview published Sunday that Johnson didn't really believe in Brexit when he broke ranks and led the campaign to take Britain out of the EU. Cameron had been expecting Johnson's help during the hard-fought campaign.

Cameron says of Johnson: "The conclusion I am left with is that he risked an outcome he didn't believe in because it would help his political career."

Cameron is giving interviews to gain publicity for his upcoming memoirs.

Courts free more suspects in case of disappeared students

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Courts have exonerated another 24 people implicated in one of the country's most notorious crimes, the disappearance of 43 students, a federal official said Sunday.

The Interior Secretary said that 21 of the detainees were freed the previous evening after courts found various violations of due process in their cases, including torture and arbitrary detention. Three remained behind bars on other charges.

Deputy Interior Secretary Alejandro Encinas criticized the decision, calling it a "mockery of justice" which encouraged "silence, complicity and impunity."

It shows "the misery, the rot in which the justice system of our country finds itself," he said.

Seventy-four of the 142 people arrested in the case

have now been freed, according to an updated statistic released by the Interior Secretary on Sunday afternoon. Nobody has yet been convicted.

Authorities say leftist students from the Ayotzinapa teacher's school were abducted by police in the Guerrero state town of Iguala in September 2014 and handed over to the drug gang Guerreros Unidos headed by Gildardo López Astudillo, who was freed earlier this month.

Jesús Murillo Karam, attorney general under President Enrique Peña Nieto, infamously announced the «historic truth» about the students' disappearance — that they were killed and their bodies incinerated at a garbage dump.

But independent experts said there was no evidence to support the conclusion that the bodies had been burned there and a team backed by the Or-

ganization of American States said Mexican investigators had overlooked other possibilities, including military involvement.

Parents of the disappeared have asked President Andrés Manuel López Obrador to initiate criminal proceedings against officials, ramp up collaboration between prosecutors and a truth commission, and require the army to answer more than 100 unanswered questions.

On Saturday night, Mexico's Attorney General's Office issued a statement saying it was ready to use «all the resources and proposed proceedings that are necessary to hold responsible those who have, during the entire criminal course, failed to fulfill their duties.»

Since 2015, judicial authorities have said there is not enough evidence to hold a trial.

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt on Sunday said negotiations over an upstream Nile dam being built by Ethiopia have not led to any "breakthrough."

Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry told reporters that talks over the \$5 billion Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam had stopped for more than a year before restarting in Cairo earlier in the day.

The long-running dispute centers on the filling and operation of what will be Africa's largest hydroelectric dam.

Egypt fears the dam could reduce its share of the Nile River which serves as a life-line for the country's 100 million people. Ethiopia, which has roughly the same popula-

tion size, maintains that the dam will help its economic development.

Shoukry said he hopes that Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia can agree to a timetable to reach a deal over the soon-to-be-completed dam.

Shoukry said his country "respects Ethiopia's right to development" but "without affecting Egypt."

He said Egypt has been ready to reach a settlement, but warned against any side "to attempt to establish a de facto situation on the ground" without an agreement.

In May last year, Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan reached an agreement to set up a sci-

entific study group to consult on the filling of the dam. But no progress was reported since then.

Shoukry said Sunday's talks were "scientific" and that Egypt was open for further discussions.

The dam is now more than 60% finished, and Ethiopia hopes to become a key energy hub in Africa upon its completion. The dam will generate about 6,400 megawatts, more than doubling Ethiopia's current production of 4,000 megawatts.

Egypt received the lion's share of the Nile waters under decades-old agreements seen by other Nile bastion countries as unfair.

Focus

HIGH ROCK, Grand Bahama (AP)—One woman and her husband huddled on top of a bedroom dresser for two days, surrounded by floodwaters.

Another man sat in his wheelchair for nearly 48 hours in water up to his chest, alone in his home.

A third rescued a friend who sat in shock when part of a building where they sought shelter blew away.

Stories of survival are trickling out across northern Bahamas as the initial shock wears off from Hurricane Dorian, one of the strongest Atlantic hurricanes in history.

But even as some Bahamians were still in survival mode, others were slowly beginning to understand the extent of the storm's devastation.

Mental health counselors are now fanning out into communities to help those traumatized by the direct hit of the Category 5 storm that forced the evacuation of nearly 5,000 people and killed at least 50 others. Some 1,300 still missing in the hard-hit islands of Grand Bahama and Abaco,

although the government has said many could be in shelters and with loved ones.

"I think some persons can't believe that it happened, and others are still processing it," said Pastor Robert Lockhart of Calvary Temple in Grand Bahama.

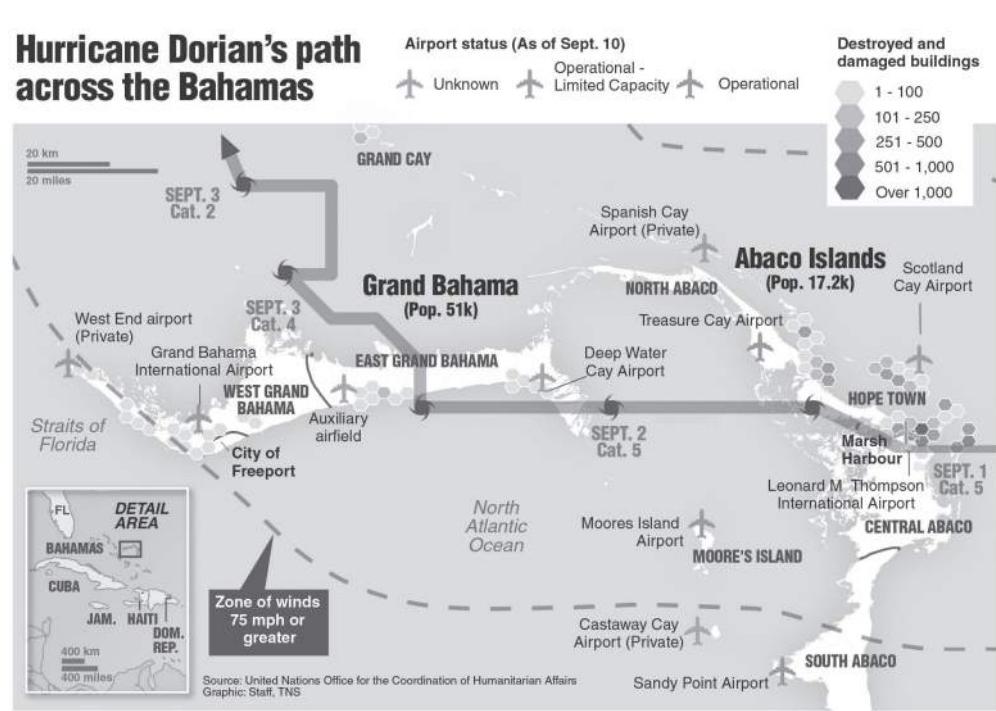
He opened his pulpit on Sunday to more than 200 people in attendance, offering to let congregants share their story as part of an island-wide effort to prevent what officials warn could become a mental health crisis as hundreds struggle to absorb the extent of the devastation.

Only six people spoke, but the crowd clapped and cried with them.

"They needed to have an outlet and share these emotions," Lockhart said. "People felt like they were going to die."

Among those who shared survival stories was 49-year-old Carlos Evans, who began to use a wheelchair after he was injured while working at an oil refinery. He recalled how he kept shining the light from his cellphone on the rising water as he tried

Hurricane Dorian's path across the Bahamas



not to panic. The water finally stopped surging when it reached his chest, and he waited alone for nearly two days until he was rescued.

"I wanted to encourage somebody else," he said of his decision to speak. "It's not just me going through it, it's all of us."

Dorian hit the northern Bahamas on Sept. 1 with winds

of 185 mph, unleashing flooding that reached levels of up to 25 feet (8 meters) in some areas and remaining nearly stationary for a day and a half. It flattened homes, swept away children and adults and stripped people of their most treasured possessions, leading the U.N. Secretary General to call the storm a "Category Hell."

Members of the International Medical Corps expected to open a clinic on Monday in High Rock in eastern Grand Bahama — one of the hardest hit communities — to help those who have physical injuries or are struggling emotionally.

But mental health specialist Eoin Ryan said it will take a couple of weeks or even

months to determine the storm's psychological toll. He also said many are still seeking food, water and shelter and will deal with the emotional impact once they're out of shock.

Susan Mangicaro, senior adviser for the team's emergency response unit, said that reactions from survivors in the Bahamas are similar to those she saw in Haiti after the 2010 earthquake.

"I've seen a lot more shock because entire villages were demolished overnight," she said.

For now, some are still in a daze.

Eulese Cooper, a 46-year-old fisherwoman from Grand Bahama, was one of those processing her loss as she sifted aimlessly through her family's belongings in the fishing village of McLean's Town.

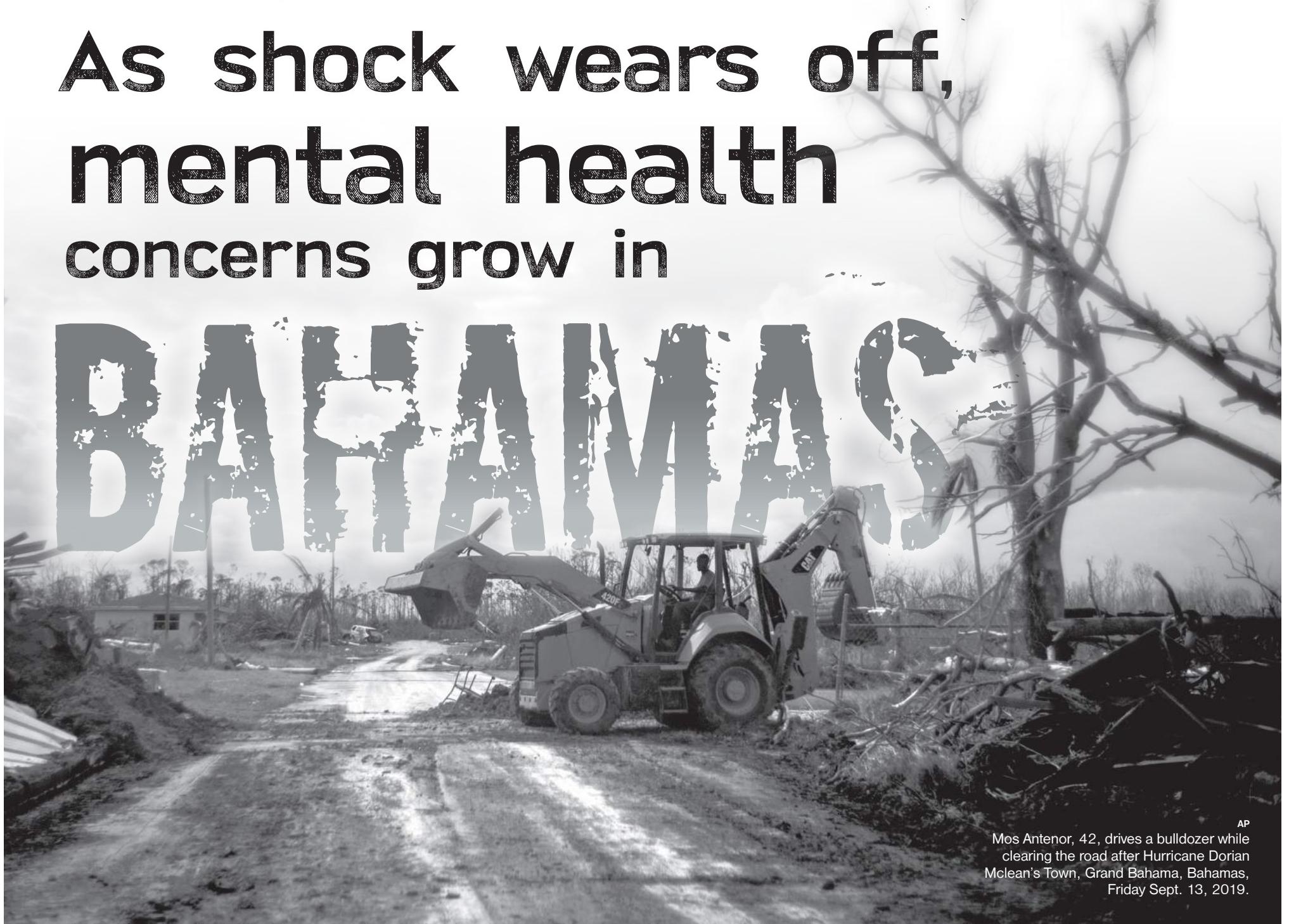
She had a gash on her head and said she was recovering from a concussion after a truck she was riding in hit a fallen wire that snapped on her head.

The doctors advised her to rest, but she could not.

"When I'm sleeping, I have nightmares," she said.

As shock wears off, mental health concerns grow in

BAHAMAS



AP
Mos Antenor, 42, drives a bulldozer while clearing the road after Hurricane Dorian in Mclean's Town, Grand Bahama, Bahamas, Friday Sept. 13, 2019.

Overdrive

By G. CHAMBERS WILLIAMS III
FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

For 2019, Honda has expanded its crossover utility lineup – and has brought back along-retired model name – with the introduction of the all-new, five-passenger midsize Passport, which slots between the compact CR-V and the larger three-row Pilot.

Some of you might recall that Honda sold its first mid-size, five-passenger Passport sport-utility vehicle beginning with model year 1994 and ending with the 2002 model just as the Pilot was introduced.

What you might not remember (and I've had some previous Passport owners argue with me about this) is that the original Honda Passport was just a rebadged version of the Isuzu Rodeo, and was assembled at the then Subaru-Isuzu Automotive plant in Lafayette, Indiana.

The Passport was one of two Isuzu SUVs that American Honda Motor Co. sold as rebadged models in the U.S. market in those early days of sport utilities before Honda began making its own.

The other one was the Acura SLX, which was an Isuzu Trooper underneath its Acura badging. Acura is Honda's luxury brand, and the SLX was replaced in 2002 by the Acura MDX, which is based on the architecture of the Pilot.

With the reintroduction of the Passport, we get a contemporary crossover utility vehicle that essentially is a six-inch-shorter version of the Pilot, without the third-row seat.

Beyond that difference, there are many similarities, including the standard 3.5-liter V-6 engine from the Pilot and Ridgeline, which is Honda's Pilot-based midsize pickup.

This engine produces 280 horsepower and 262 foot-pounds of torque in all three of these vehicles, and is paired with a nine-speed automatic transmission in all three, as well. Automatic stop-start is included to help save gasoline while stopping at traffic signals and during stop-and-go traffic conditions.

There are four trim levels for the Passport, beginning with the Sport (\$31,990, plus \$1,095 freight), followed by the EX-L (\$36,410), Touring (\$39,280) and Elite (\$43,680). Front-wheel drive is standard on all but the Elite, which comes only with all-wheel drive. All-wheel drive may be added to the first three trims for an additional \$1,900 each.

All trims have leather interiors except for the base (Sport) model. EX-L models



REVIEW:

Honda introduces the 2019 Passport as a contemporary two-row crossover

NUTS & BOLTS

2019 HONDA PASSPORT

- **The package:** Midsize, front- or all-wheel-drive, five-door, five-passenger, V-6 powered, crossover utility vehicle.
- **Highlights:** This is Honda's newest crossover, which fits in its lineup between the compact CR-V and larger Pilot. It is relatively roomy and comfortable, has plenty of power, and has loads of standard and optional features.
- **Negatives:** Limited middle-passenger space in the back seat.
- **Overall length:** 190.5 inches.
- **Curb weight range:** 3,959-4,237 pounds.
- **Engine:** 3.5-liter V-6.
- **Transmission:** Nine-speed automatic.
- **Power/torque:** 280 HP/262 foot-pounds.
- **Brakes, front/rear:** Disc/disc, antilock.
- **Cargo volume:** 41.2 cubic feet (behind rear seat); 77.5 to 77.9 cubic feet (rear seat folded, varies by trim level).
- **Towing capacity:** 3,500 pounds (2WD); 5,000 pounds (AWD).
- **Electronic stability control:** Standard.
- **Side air bags:** Front seat-mounted; roof-mounted side-curtain both rows.
- **EPA fuel economy:** 20 mpg city/25 highway/22 combined (2WD); 19/24/21 (AWD).
- **Fuel capacity/type:** 19.5 gallons/unleaded regular.
- **Main competitors:** Chevrolet Blazer, Jeep Grand Cherokee, Ford Edge, Hyundai Santa Fe, Kia Sorento, Nissan Murano.
- **Base price range:** \$31,990-\$43,680, plus \$1,095 freight.
- **Price as tested:** \$44,775, including freight (Elite model, includes all-wheel drive, no options).
- **On the Road rating:** 9.2 (of a possible 10).

versal garage/gate opener, and two additional USB charging ports.

Moving up to the Touring model brings low-and high-beam LED headlights, wider 265/45R20 tires, a foot-activated hands-free access power liftgate, LED ambient lighting, parking sensors, navigation, premium audio with

10 speakers, a 115-volt power outlet, power/folding outside mirrors with turn signals, acoustic glass on the front and rear doors, and unique 20-inch alloy wheels.

Other than the standard all-wheel drive and ventilated front seat, Elite models have auto-dimming side mirrors, a heated steering wheel, rain

seatback folded down. The seatback folds at the touch of a button.

There is an under-floor hidden cargo area of 2.5 cubic feet perfect for dirty items or keeping valuables out of sight. It's near the rear bumper under a removable section of floor. There is also a spare tire under the cargo floor.

The Passport shares much of its body and chassis with the Pilot and Ridgeline, including Honda's Advanced Compatibility Engineering body structure, designed to help protect occupants and pedestrians during crashes.

One of the hallmarks of Honda SUVs and minivans is the abundance of storage spaces inside the passenger compartment, and the Passport is no exception. Front occupants had convenient spaces for phones and gadgets. A roomy center console box had a sliding cover that gave it easy access, much better than typical console boxes with lids that have to be raised.

Our Elite model had a wireless charging pad ahead of the console box that worked for our iPhones and Samsung Android phones.

The instrument panel features a seven-inch color display providing various vehicle and driving information, including speed and engine RPM, audio information, trip computer, phone information, and turn-by-turn route guidance on models with navigation. The screen can be accessed through steering-wheel-mounted controls.

Our Passport included AT&T 4G LTE wireless internet inside the vehicle, including a 90-day free trial.

The front-wheel-drive Passport can tow trailers weighing up to 3,500 pounds, while all-wheel-drive models can handle 5,000 pounds. The Multi-Angle Rearview Camera gives the driver a view of the hitch and trailer connector to aid in hooking them up.

Honda Sensing, standard on all Passports, includes Forward Collision Warning, the Collision Mitigation Braking System, Lane Departure Warning, Lane Keeping Assistance System, Road Departure Mitigation and Adaptive Cruise Control.

The 3.5-liter engine provided plenty of power for all situations, including mountain grades and uphill freeway on-ramps. We didn't try towing trailers, but did have three or four adults on board much of our time in the Passport, and never felt it lacked sufficient power.

Life & Style

New 'SNL' player used anti-Chinese slur in 2018 YouTube post

A newly announced "Saturday Night Live" cast member posted a video last year in which he used a racial slur for Chinese people and derided Asians trying to learn English.

The clip of Shane Gillis re-emerged in a news report Thursday, just hours after NBC said that he and two others, including the show's only Asian American performer, were joining the cast as featured players.

The video apparently was posted in 2018 to a YouTube channel featuring Gillis and fellow comedian Matt McCusker, according to a Variety story. Seth Simons, a freelance writer and

editor covering comedy, re-posted a clip from the video on Twitter and brought it to the trade paper's attention, Variety said.

NBC didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. A representative for Gillis couldn't immediately be located.

In the clip, Gillis refers to a city's Chinatown as being "nuts" and used a derogatory word for Chinese people when he and McCusker marveled that the unidentified city allowed the building of predominantly Chinese architecture.

Gillis also complains in the video that Chinese restaurants are full of

"(expletive) Chinese. ... And the translation between you and the waiter is just such a (expletive) hassle."

Gillis said he's more annoyed by hearing an Asian trying to learn English when he's eating out than by any other "minority" playing music. He characterized that reaction as "nice racism, good racism," adding that whites would be a similar target if they were speaking English "over there," not specifying where he meant.

The other new "SNL" cast members announced are Bowen Yang, who joined the show last season as



Gillis

a staff writer and is co-host of a podcast, "Las Culturistas," and Chloe Fineman, who's been a regular performer with the Groundlings improv company. She and Gillis were featured as "New Faces" at the Just for Laughs Festival in Montreal.

"Saturday Night Live" has taken heat over the years for an overall lack of ethnic diversity, with scant Asian representation among its cast members or hosts.

Former players Fred Armisen and Rob Schneider both are one-quarter Asian, but neither has been widely

recognized for their Asian ancestry. Among hosts, the long history of "SNL" includes a short list of Asian or Asian Americans, with Awkwafina, Aziz Ansari and Jackie Chan among them.

Change is a constant at "SNL." Leslie Jones, who joined the show after it was criticized in 2013 for the absence of an African American woman among its regular or featured players, is focusing on stand-up and movies and won't be back this season.

The show returns Sept. 28 for its 45th season with host Woody Harrelson and musical guest Billie Eilish. (AP)

'Jojo Rabbit' wins Toronto's sought-after audience award

NEW YORK (AP)—Taika Waititi's Nazi Germany-set satire "Jojo Rabbit" won the People's Choice award Sunday at the Toronto International Film Festival, a prize that has historically been one of the most iron-clad predictors of Academy Awards chances.



Waititi

Because so many of the top fall movies play in Toronto, the festival's audience award has often been almost prophetic. For more than a decade, every People's Choice winner has gone on to score a best-picture Oscar nomination. Last year's winner, "Green Book," eventually won best picture.

"Jojo Rabbit" is a coming-of-age comedy about a 10-year-old boy named Jojo growing up in World War II Germany. His imaginary friend is Adolf Hitler, played by Waititi, the New Zealand filmmaker of "Thor: Ragnarok" and "Hunt for the Wilderpeople."

The film earned mixed reviews in Toronto, with some critics calling it Waititi's masterpiece and others—many of whom compared it to the 1997 Roberto Benigni Holocaust comic-drama "Life is Beautiful"—criticizing

ing its off-kilter balance of tones.

But "Jojo Rabbit" was heartily cheered by festival audiences, who vote for the People's Choice award. And, going by history, the film is practically assured of a promising Oscar campaign. "Jojo Rabbit," which stars Roman Griffin Davis as Jojo alongside a cast including Scarlett Johansson and Sam Rockwell, will be released by Fox Searchlight on Oct. 18.

Last month, Variety reported that some executives for the Walt Disney Co., which earlier this year acquired Fox Searchlight, were concerned about "Jojo Rabbit" being too edgy for the company. But in an interview in Toronto, Waititi disputed that, saying Disney chief executive Bob Iger and chief creative officer Alan Horn "gushed" over the film.

"It's like saying, 'Watch out for that 'Life Is Beautiful' movie. It's going to bring down the corporation,'" Waititi said. "I don't think you have to worry about this movie because once you see it, it speaks for itself. It's uplifting and it's a very positive message."

Rocker Ric Ocasek, frontman of The Cars, dead at 75

NEW YORK (AP)—Ric Ocasek, The Cars frontman whose deadpan vocal delivery and lanky, sunglassed look defined a rock era with chart-topping hits like "Just What I Needed," was discovered dead Sunday afternoon in his Manhattan apartment.



Ocasek

The New York Police Department said that officers found the 75-year-old Ocasek at about 4 p.m. after responding to a 911 call. They said there were no signs of foul play and that the medical examiner was to determine a cause of death.

The death comes a year after The Cars were inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, followed by an announcement by model Paulina Porizkova on social media that she and Ocasek had separated after 28 years of marriage. The pair first met while filming the music video for

"Drive," another Cars hit.

Ocasek, who sang, played guitar and wrote most of the band's songs, and Benjamin Orr, who played bass and also sang, were ex-hippie buddies who formed The Cars in Boston in 1976. They were a decade older than many of their modern-rock compatriots but became one of the most essential American bands of the late 1970s and 1980s with their fusion of new wave, 1960s pop and 1970s glam.

Ocasek's minimalist, half-spoken deadpan vocals set made the band's sound, and his long, lanky appearance formed their lasting image.

The first three songs on their 1978 self-titled first album were all hit singles and remain widely known classics and oldies radio airplay: "Good Times Roll," "My Best Friend's Girl" and "Just What I Needed."



This image released by STXfilms shows, from left, Lili Reinhart, Jennifer Lopez, Keke Palmer, and Constance Wu in a scene from "Hustlers," in theaters on Sept. 13. AP

"It" is tops again; "Hustlers" full of flash at box office

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It wasn't quite enough to take down Pennywise the clown, but Jennifer Lopez and the scheming strippers of "Hustlers" topped even the high expectations they brought to the weekend box office.

"It: Chapter Two" brought in \$40.7 million in the U.S. and Canada to keep the top spot in its second week and has earned a total of \$153.8 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. The original, the biggest September release ever, had earned more than \$200 million at the same point two years ago.

"Hustlers," riding stellar reviews, film-festival buzz and Oscar talk for Lopez, earned \$33.2 million, a record for a film from STX Entertainment, which was launched less than five years ago.

The film, budgeted at just \$20 million, became the rare recent hit that was neither a sequel nor a reboot nor part of a series. It was also the biggest opening ever for a live-action Lopez film, and had numbers comparable to co-star Constance Wu's hit "Crazy Rich Asians," whose long-term box office success could be a model for "Hustlers."

"This is exactly the kind of movie that every studio dreams of producing, because it's going to be profitable, prestigious and a long-term performer," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Comscore. "A lot of original type movies

that are non-franchise non-sequels, many of them have had a rough go this year. This is a nice counter-balance to that."

Based on a New York magazine piece, "Hustlers," written and directed by Lorene Scafaria, tells the true story of a group of New York City strippers who, put out by the re-

1. **"It: Chapter Two,"** \$40.7 million (\$47 million international).
2. **"Hustlers,"** \$33.2 million (\$4.5 million international).
3. **"Angel Has Fallen,"** \$4.4 million (\$4.9 million international).
4. **"Good Boys,"** \$4.3 million (\$1.8 million international).
5. **"The Lion King,"** \$3.6 million (\$6.9 million international).
6. **"Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw,"** \$2.8 million (\$8.1 million international).
7. **"Overcomer,"** \$2.7 million.
8. **"The Goldfinch,"** \$2.6 million (\$985,000 international).
9. **"The Peanut Butter Falcon,"** \$1.9 million.
10. **"Dora and the Lost City of Gold,"** \$1.85 million (\$4.4 million international).

cession's effects on their Wall Street patrons, start a side con that involves drugging their wealthy marks and running up exorbitant credit card bills that they get a cut of.

"We didn't look at it as a stripper movie," said STX Motion Picture Group Chairman Adam Fogelson. "We looked at it as a crime movie, not unlike something like 'Wolf of Wall Street.'"

Even with its buzz, industry projections had the film making about \$25 million over the weekend, but it appealed to an even wider audience than expected.

"It definitely skewed female as we always expected, but it was very diverse as far as ethnic groups, and it brought in a broad range of ages for an R-rated film," Fogelson said.

And with its strong word-of-mouth and the forthcoming season of awards and end-of-year top 10 lists, it could keep bringing in the dollar bills for months.

"This is a movie that everyone is talking about," Fogelson said.

"Angel Has Fallen," starring Gerard Butler, was a distant third with \$4.4 million, and has brought in \$60.4 million in its four weeks of release.

The week's other new release, "The Goldfinch," landed with a thud, bringing in just \$2.6 million. The adaptation of Donna Tartt's acclaimed 2013 novel, starring Ansel Elgort, got reviews as dreary as those of "Hustlers" were strong.

"It: Chapter Two" was hardly a slouch, despite underperforming compared to the 2017 original. Bringing in more than \$150 million in two weeks during usually-dead September is a rare achievement.

"It's a massive number," said Dergarabedian. "The 'It' franchise has now done over a billion dollars worldwide. That first film was really lightning in a bottle."

Adele files for divorce from husband Simon Konecki

By NARDINE SAAD
LOS ANGELES TIMES

British superstar Adele has filed for divorce from husband Simon Konecki after more than seven years as a couple, all but guaranteeing more heartbreak ballads for any and all upcoming albums.

The singer, 31, filed a divorce petition in Los Angeles Superior Court on Thursday. The Times has confirmed.

Her family court filing comes a few months after the couple announced that they had split.

According to several re-

"Adele and her partner have separated," her representatives told the Associated Press in April. "They are committed to raising their son together lovingly. As always they ask for privacy. There will be no further comment."

The fiercely private pair must now determine how they'll handle custody of their 6-year-old son, Angelo, and how they'll divvy up their finances. (Konecki also has a daughter from a previous marriage.)

ports, Adele and Konecki, an investment banker-turned-philanthropist, might not have had a prenuptial agreement in place when they wed. And because the singer filed her petition in California, where they own property and Konecki's business also operates, he could be entitled to half her earnings since they wed, People reported.

She and Konecki met as her 2011 album "21" was gaining mainstream attention. The couple welcomed their son in 2012. The two reportedly wed



Adele

in 2016, but Adele only confirmed the union during her

2017 Grammy Awards acceptance speech, when she referred to Konecki as her husband.

Earlier this year, the Oscar winner seemingly addressed the split on Instagram, posting a meme about getting emotional. In a post on her 31st birthday in May, the hit-maker also reflected on her trying year and teased to new music about it.

"I'm owning it and trying my hardest to lean in to it all. No matter how long we're here for life is constant and complicated at times," she

wrote. "I've changed drastically in the last couple years and I'm still changing and that's okay. 31 is going to be a big ol' year and I'm going to spend it all on myself. For the first time in a decade I'm ready to feel the world around me and look up for once."

"Be kind to yourself people we're only human, go slow, put your phone down and laugh out loud at every opportunity. Learning to REALLY truly love yourself is it, and I've only just realized that that is more than enough."

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

"Handmaid's Tale," "Mrs. Maisel" guest stars capture Emmys

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A trio of Emmy-honored actors are winners again for their guest performances in TV series, joined by an awards newcomer. Bradley Whitford and Cherry Jones received trophies for their "The Handmaid's Tale" roles at Sunday's creative arts Emmy ceremony. Jane Lynch and Luke Kirby won on the comedy side, both for "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel." Whitford added to his Emmys for "The West Wing" and "Transparent," while Jones previously won for "24." Lynch added to her four previous Emmys for series including "Glee" and "Hollywood Game Night." Kirby, who played Lenny Bruce on "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel," has also appeared in "The Deuce" and "Rectify." The creative arts awards set the table for the main Emmy ceremony, airing Sept. 22 on Fox.

'Crazy Ex' star Rachel Bloom wins Emmy, announces pregnancy

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Rachel Bloom has won an Emmy for writing music and lyrics, and soon she'll be singing lullabies. The "Crazy Ex-Girlfriend" creator and star announced backstage at the Creative Arts Emmy Awards on Saturday night that she and husband Dan Gregor are expecting a baby. Bloom won the Emmy, her first, along with Adam Schlesinger and Jack Dolgen for the song "Antidepressants Are So Not A

Big Deal," from her CW series that ended in April after four seasons. Bloom told reporters backstage that "I'm pregnant, that's what's next for me." She said she was going to announce it on Instagram, but that this was a far better venue. She says she's three months along and she'll be able to tell her child that "she was with me when this happened."

Discounted movie subscription service MoviePass shuts down

NEW YORK (AP)—MoviePass, the movie ticket subscription service that allowed subscribers to buy up to three movie tickets per month for a small fee, shut down Saturday. Its future is unclear. Helios and Matheson Analytics, the parent company of MoviePass, said Friday in a release that it was interrupting service for all its subscribers because its efforts to seek financing have not been successful. It says it's "unable to predict if or when" MoviePass will continue. The company says it's planning to study all options including the sale of the company in its entirety. MoviePass drew in millions of subscribers, initially luring them with a \$10 monthly rate. But that proved unsustainable. Because MoviePass typically pays theaters the full cost of tickets—\$15 or more in big cities—a single movie can put the service in the red. The company was forced to make changes. Those efforts, however, never stopped the losses. In a letter posted to subscribers on its website, Mitch Lowe, CEO of MoviePass, wrote,

In August 2017, MoviePass began a transformation of the movie going industry by introducing its low monthly price subscription service. Since then, others in the industry have followed our lead. "MoviePass said it will be providing subscribers with "appropriate" refunds for their period of service already paid for. Subscribers will not need to request a refund or contact MoviePass customer service to receive a refund. Subscribers will not be charged during the service interruption, according to the website. Helios acquired a majority stake in the subscription service in 2017.

Korean-born graduate donates \$12 million to Illinois State

NORMAL, Ill. (AP)—An Illinois State University graduate from South Korea who now is an internationally-known artist, and her husband, have donated \$12 million to the school's College of Fine Arts. Wonsoon Kim says she wants the gift to be a celebration of America as a land of opportunity. Both Kim and her husband, Thomas Clement, were born in South Korea. With the donation, the university is renaming the college and school of art the Wonsoon Kim College of Fine Arts and the Wonsoon Kim School of Art. President Larry Dietz said Kim and Clement are providing for current students and "investing in the future of Illinois State."

Kim's work is on display at New York's Museum of Modern Art, Washington's National Museum of Women in the Arts, and the Vatican Collection in Vatican City. The 56-year-old Kim came to the United States in 1972 and earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Illinois State.

R. Kelly a no-show in court on Minnesota solicitation charge

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Singer R. Kelly was a no-show for an initial court appearance in a Minnesota case in which he is accused of offering a 17-year-old girl \$200 to take off her clothes and dance in 2001. Kelly, who is jailed in Chicago on sexual abuse and other counts, was charged in Minnesota in August with soliciting the girl after meeting her before a concert in Minneapolis. Kelly, whose full name is Robert Sylvester Kelly, faces previously filed federal and state charges in New York and Chicago. Prosecutor Judith Cole told Judge Jay Quam during Thursday's brief hearing that federal authorities in Illinois were "not willing to give us access to him" until his case there is resolved. The judge then issued a bench warrant as a formality. Kelly's attorney Steve Greenberg, who didn't attend the hearing and isn't officially registered in the Minnesota case, said they never got notice of it. A spokesman for the county attorney's office said the summons was sent to Kelly's last known address.

Mom wants to end daughter's sleepovers with her boyfriend

DEAR ABBY: My 40-year-old daughter, "Marta," and I are widows. I'm retired, and my daughter has a small home-based business. She and her three children live with me. Because the cost of living is high in our city, living together has allowed us to pool our resources and co-parent my grandkids.

Marta has had a boyfriend for a year and a half. I have not warmed to him. He has four kids by a previous girlfriend or wife. The youngest is 18 months old. He works at a grocery store, and I just don't see a viable future for my daughter with him.

My dilemma: She sneaks him in, and he spends the night several nights a week. Marta never asked my permission. I guess she assumed it is OK. To me it is unseemly and untrustworthy on both their parts. It sends the wrong message to my grandchildren. My mistake was not having said anything to her the first time it happened. How should I proceed now?

BOTHERED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR BOTHERED: Proceed by having an adult conversation with your daughter and tell her exactly how you feel about this arrangement. While whether or not the boyfriend is good enough for Marta is not your decision to make—face it, she's 40 now—the talk may clear the air. If her sex life is important to her, she may opt to look for another place to live, so don't be surprised if she does.

DEAR ABBY: I had major surgery eight months ago. When

I came out from under the anesthesia, I was disappointed to find my wife wasn't there. It turned out she had left the hospital to have lunch with my sister instead of eating on-site.

I have expressed my disappointment to her twice, and I know she regrets not being there, but every few months the memory of what felt like abandonment rises up and depression sets in, often for several days. How do I let this go?

POST-SURGERY BLUES

DEAR P.S.B.: Your wife did not abandon you; she had lunch with your sister. It was a mistake she regrets. You were feeling helpless and vulnerable, which is normal.

I'm wondering if your reaction could be connected to the surgery or medications. Please talk about this with your doctor. If that doesn't help, a licensed mental health professional can help you get beyond this. Your doctor or health care provider can refer you to someone who can help with these episodes of depression.

DEAR ABBY: My dear friend has a terrible habit of ALWAYS talking about her husband, "Bennet." According to her, he can do everything and knows everything. In one evening she mentioned his name 19 times. (I counted.) For the record, Bennet is an average guy and nondescript in every way. Even her kids think he is royalty.

How can I kindly tell her she is embarrassing herself, and her friends find it annoying? This has been going on for years, and

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

it keeps getting worse.

NOT IMPRESSED IN THE EAST

DEAR NOT IMPRESSED: For the record, Bennet must be doing something right or his family wouldn't idolize him the way you say they do.

If you think there is anything you can "kindly" say to your dear friend about her Knight in Shining Armor being nondescript in every way, you are dreaming. Tell your friend you appreciate how proud she is of her husband, but you'd like to hear about some other subjects. If it falls on deaf ears, see her less often if you must, but don't smash her idol.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson



Garfield®



By Jim Davis



Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	35 "Don't ask"	53 Oxen's burden	16 Vegas opener	20 "Norma —"
1 Melville captain	initials			21 Basil or thyme
5 Charitable gift	36 Limbs	2 Solo of "Star Wars"	22 Say it's so	23 Mischief
9 Calendar box	37 Beethoven's — Solemnis"	3 Summer mo.	24 Historic times	26 Lays down the lawn
12 Hawaiian island	38 Thin coins	4 "Baby" singer Justin	27 Tram load	5 Wan
13 Plane reservation	40 Unrepaired	42 High card	28 Cupid's alias	6 Meadows
14 "Evil Woman" band	43 2001	43 Jennifer Lopez film	7 — tai	7 — tai
15 Pasta variety		48 Moving vehicle	8 Limo type	29 Country's McEntire
17 Be a couch potato	49 Turkish money	50 Actor's part	9 Plankton-eating fish	31 Clutter-clearing event
18 Inlets	51 Tolkien creature	10 Actor Baldwin	11 Meditative practice	34 "Gosh!"
19 Writer Jong				35 Wretchedness
21 Where the Styx flows				37 Wire measure
24 List-ending abbr.				38 Humorist Barry
25 Always				39 Volunteer's words
26 Wizard				40 Taj Mahal city
30 Gun the engine				41 Line of fashion?
31 Sacred scroll				44 Prohibit
32 "Right you —!"				45 — hoo!"
33 Military units				46 Wapiti
				47 Observe

Solution time: 22 mins.



Yesterday's answer 9-17

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Patrick Mahomes, 24; Danielle Brooks, 30; Doug E. Fresh, 53; Kyle Chandler, 54.

Happy Birthday: You are heading toward a turning point. Refuse to let stubbornness stand between you and doing what's right and best for everyone involved. Reach out, participate and be willing to compromise. Your numbers are 5, 13, 17, 24, 29, 32, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep an open mind, and it will be easier to share ideas and formulate plans that will accommodate you and those you deal with today. Working in conjunction with others will determine how much you will accomplish. **★★★**

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Follow your gut, and do what comes naturally. What you have to offer can dominate the outcome of a situation that includes older or younger people in your life. Plan to spend less money and to put in more physical energy. **★★★**

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Spend more time taking care of your physical and emotional needs. Refuse to let anyone use you or take you for granted. Personal improvements can be made that will encourage greater confidence. Romance is in the stars. **★★★**

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take better care of your emotional well-being. Make a concerted effort to stay fit and to improve your surroundings to accommodate the activities and hobbies you enjoy doing most. Refuse to let anyone take advan-

tage of you. **★★**

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Consider what's reusable before you discard one thing and replace it with another. How you use what you have will save you financially and help you avoid being taken advantage of by someone eager to spend your cash. **★★★★**

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Spend wisely. You'll have choices to make concerning lifestyle, personal finances and taking care of someone else's affairs. Listen mindfully to the suggestions made by those close to you, and be willing to make concessions. **★★★**

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A little charm will go a long way. Being complimentary will encourage others to do things your way. How you treat people will determine how much they do for you. Personal improvements can be made. **★★★**

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Experience is the best teacher. Dig in and help, and you will learn something new. A change someone makes will bring you closer together. Going somewhere you've never been will lead to a lifestyle change. Express your feelings openly. **★★★**

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): What others do will prompt you to make a change. Recognize who is a good influence, and walk away from anyone who is misleading. Personal improvements will lead to new opportunities. Romance is encouraged and will enhance your life. **★★★**

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take better care of your emotional well-being. Make a concerted effort to stay fit and to improve your surroundings to accommodate the activities and hobbies you enjoy doing most. Refuse to let anyone take advan-

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



COURTESY 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): The changes you make to your personal investments or health will make a difference to what you can accomplish moving forward. Make plans with someone you love, and it will bring you closer together and lead to positive lifestyle changes. **★★★★**

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Consider what's available and the changes that are within reach. Use your intelligence to decipher what's right for you. Don't feel compelled to follow someone who is taking a chance on something you know little about. Do your own thing. **★★**

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Look at the possibilities, but don't lose sight of what's doable. Set priorities, and you will have the best of both worlds. You'll get a taste of what you want and the incentive to save to live your dream. **★★★★**

Birthday Baby: You are energetic, ambitious and enthusiastic. You are outgoing and assertive.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

8	5	2	7	4					
2	3				4				
7	5		4		1	6			
1		8				3	8		
3								8	9
2		4						3	1
								5	4
								3	2
								1	6
								4	5

Difficulty Level ★★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	5	3	2	1	8	6	9	7
8	7	9	4	6	3	5	1	2
1	2	6	7	5	9	4	3	8
7	6	1	8	3	4	2	5	9
5	9	8	6	7	2	3	4	1
2	3	4	5	9	1	8	7	6
6	4	5	9	2	7	1	8	3
3	8	7	1	4	6	9	2	5
9	1	2	3	8	5	7	6	4

Difficulty Level ★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUVELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backwords. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

TOPAZ

T	Y	P	D	E	A	I	R	T	S	W	I	S	S	S
C	R	I	S	G	M	O	D	A	R	O	D	L	E	
A	I	A	R	N	P	C	B	E	A	U	T	Y	T	
P	C	O	N	E	K	H	T	R	E	V	L	I	S	
M	L	E	R	S	H	O	E	S	O	M	H	E	N	
O	E	I	S	H	P	S	T	R	L	W	U	N	I	
C	A	G	Y	A	C	A	W	A	E	L	N	O	G	
L	V	N	Z	B	R	O	R	O	B	D	T	T	R	
M	E	I	E	A	B	E	E	L	A	S	S	R	I	
A	O	D	C	N	N	U	O	L	N	L	R	E	I	
S	Y	N	I	I	I	U	T	N	P	T	E	A	C	
S	A	A	M	L	T	R	U	S	I	Y	M	E		
I	R	S	U	A	E	S	T	N	A	D	N	E	P	
V	G	Z	H	E	A	T	Y	I	G	N	E	O	U	
E	A	R	R	I	N	G	S	M	C	I	O	Z	A	

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Azotic, Azul, Beauty, Blue, Brown, Carats, Citrine, Cleave, Compact, Earrings, El Dorado, Gray, Heat, Igneous, Imperial, Maraba, Massive, Mineral, Mystic, Nigeria, Pendants, Pink, Pleochroic, Princess, Purple, Rainbow, Red Sea, Rocks, Russia, Sanding, Sherry, Silver, Sphere, Stone, Striated, Stubby, Swiss, Topazios, Transparent, Utah, White, Yellow
Yesterday's Answer: Issues
To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 38, 40, and 42 through 56, visit online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

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(2) Heavy Equipment Mechanics - \$9.05 per hour, plus x 1.5 OT, full time, 40 hours a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Duties may include but not limited to: Maintaining, repairing and servicing a set of heavy equipment machines or vehicles (e.g., trucks, backhoes, excavators, bulldozers, cranes and compactors), completing inspections and preventive maintenance requirement, correcting vehicle deficiencies, making adjustments and alignments, and keeping records; ensure that all equipment is operating smoothly after repair and maintenance.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
• High School Graduate
• Minimum 2 years/24 months experience as Heavy Equipment Mechanic
• Valid CNMI Driver's license
• Valid CNMI police clearance
• Current DOT physical examination

All interested applicants can send resume to info@itscorporation.net or visit our office P.O. Box 502273 Chalan Lau, Chalan Pale Arnold, Middle Road, Saipan, or contact us at telephone numbers (670) 235-6511 or (670) 285-4800 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Saturday. For more information, the position can be obtained from the company's posted Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor website - marianaslabor.net

ITS CORPORATION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ONE (1) Accountant \$12.86 to \$15.00 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Prepare asset, liability and capital account entries by compiling and analyzing transaction information. Prepare financial statements and reports. Analyze financial information and communicate recommendations to management. Prepare and file required tax returns for local and federal revenue authorities. Accomplish related duties as assigned.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
Bachelor's Degree in accounting
At least 24 months experience is required

All interested applicants can submit resume at usafanter.operations@gmail.com or at our office address PMB 1372 Box 10003 Bayogo Lane, Gualo Rai or contact us at (670)234-5828 from 8:00 am to 5:00pm, Mondays through Fridays. For more information the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor website - marianaslabor.net

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ONE (1) Accounting Clerk \$9.87 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Compute, classify and record numerical data to keep financial records complete. Perform any combination of routine calculating, posting and verifying duties to obtain primary financial data for use in maintaining accounting records. May also check the accuracy of figures, calculations and postings pertaining to business transactions, recorded by other workers. Accomplish related duties as assigned.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
Associate Degree in accounting
At least 24 months experience as Accounting Clerk is required.

All interested applicants can submit resume at usafanter.operations@gmail.com or at our office address PMB 1372 Box 10003 Bayogo Lane, Gualo Rai or contact us at (670)234-5828 from 8:00 am to 5:00pm, Mondays through Fridays. For more information the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor website - marianaslabor.net

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

THREE (3) Heavy Equipment Mechanic \$8.73 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Operate and Inspect Machines and Heavy Equipment, Trucks and Vehicles to Diagnose Defects. Clean, Lubricate, and perform other routine maintenance work on Heavy equipment, Trucks and vehicles. Repair or Overhaul Machines, Heavy Equipment, Trucks, and Vehicles then test to ensure operating efficiency. Perform other related duties as assigned.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
At least 24 months experience as Heavy Mechanic is required.

All interested applicants can submit resume at usafanter.operations@gmail.com or at our office address PMB 1372 Box 10003 Bayogo Lane, Gualo Rai or contact us at (670)234-5828 from 8:00 am to 5:00pm, Mondays through Fridays. For more information the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor website - marianaslabor.net

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ONE (1) Machine Feeder and Offbearer \$8.07 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Feed materials into or remove materials from machines or equipment that is automatic or tended by machine operators. Inspect materials and products for defects and remove nonconforming items. Record production and operational data such as amount of materials processed. Take direction from machine operators to clean and maintain machinery equipment and work areas to ensure proper functioning and safe working conditions. Transfer materials and products to and from machinery and equipment using industrial trucks, forklifts or hand trucks. Fasten, package or stack materials and products using hand tools and fastening equipment. Accomplish other related duties as assigned.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
High school diploma required.
At least 1 year experience as Machine Feeder and Offbearer is required

All interested applicants can submit resume at usafanter.operations@gmail.com or at our office address PMB 1372 Box 10003 Bayogo Lane, Gualo Rai or contact us at (670)234-5828 from 8:00 am to 5:00pm, Mondays through Fridays. For more information the position can be obtained from the company's Job Vacancy Announcement on the CNMI Labor website - marianaslabor.net

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ONE (1) Painter Helper \$10.83 per hour, plus 1.5 OT Full time 40 hrs. a week, Monday to Friday, 8:00 to 5:00 pm

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
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Gasol completes historic double, Spain wins

BEIJING (AP)—Marc Gasol looked to the sky as confetti fell, some sticking to his massive shoulders, and then cradled and kissed the giant golden chalice that goes to the World Cup champions.

He's getting good at hoisting trophies.

Gasol got to bask in a championship celebration for the second time in three months—and this time, he did it for his country. Tournament MVP Ricky Rubio scored 20 points, Sergio Llull added 15 and Spain won the World Cup for the second time by topping Argentina 95-75 on Sunday.

"We weren't the most talented team," Rubio said. "We weren't the bigger team. Put anything you want, but we were the team with the biggest heart and we showed it tonight and we showed it during the whole tournament."

Gasol scored 14 for the winners, who never trailed and added this crown to the one it claimed in 2006. And for him, 2019 will go down as a year the likes of which few others have enjoyed.

The Toronto Raptors center becomes the second player to win an NBA title and a FIBA world gold medal in the same year, joining Lamar Odom—who did it for the Los Angeles Lakers and USA Basketball in 2010. Gasol also became the 19th to win either an NBA or WNBA crown along with a gold medal, either of the Olympic or World Cup variety, in the same year.

The first 18 all did it for the U.S.

This time, Vamos España!

"NBA champion and a World Cup champion as well," Gasol said. "What can I say? How does it sound to you? I feel very fortunate to be in this position and be able to play this game and help these guys be part of history of Spanish basketball."

Llull and Rudy Fernandez—the team captain, the one who initially got to accept the Naismith Trophy—went to cut down the nets shortly after the final buzzer. Gasol carried the game ball to the gold-medal ceremony, and Spanish fans wept in the stands during the national anthem.

Gabriel Deck scored 24 points for Argentina (8-1), which got off to a slow start and played uphill the rest of the way. Luis Scola was held to eight points, shooting 1 for 10 from the floor.

"We're sad right now. We're very sad," Scola said. "But I feel confident, in hours, we'll be able to look back and be very proud. They just played better than us. They were better. They deserved to win. They were the better team in

Nando De Colo scored 19 to lead France with 16 from Evan Fournier. Joe Ingles had 17 for Australia with 15 from Patty Mills. Utah Jazz center Rudy Gobert, who scored 21 against the United States in a quarterfinal victory, scored only two points—but the French prevailed anyway, and will be the only medal-winning team from 2014 to win another this year.

"It means everything," Gobert said of the bronze. "Obviously it's not the one we wanted. We all know that."

France held Andrew Bogut to five points and Matthew Dellavedova to four, another big reason for the win.

Australia coach Andrej Lemanis cited fatigue late in the game as a factor, which he said explained 19 turnovers.

"France also made some shots they needed to make and made some plays that gave



Sergio Llull of Spain tries to get past Nicolas Laprovittola and Nicolas Brussino of Argentina during their FIBA Basketball World Cup Final at the Cadillac Arena in Beijing, Sunday, Sept. 15, 2019. AP

awful for them," he said. "But that's definitely what we didn't want, to finish the tournament feeling like (crap) like that. We finished third before and it felt great. This one is kind of different because we felt like we could have done better."

Australia will have to agonize over another chance for its first World Cup or Olympic medal slipping away.

The Boomers are now 0-5 in bronze-medal games on the sport's top international stages—with all four of the previous chances coming at the Olympics. They lost 89-88 to Spain in the 2016 bronze game at Rio, 89-71 to Lithuania at the 2000 Sydney Games, 80-74 to Lithuania at Atlanta in 1996 and 78-49 to the U.S. at Seoul in 1988.

France took silver in the 1948 and 2000 Olympics. France was also the bronze medalist in the last World Championship (now World Cup) in 2014 and finished fourth in 1954.

This was only the third meeting between Australia and France in a major event.

Before Sunday, the teams split two matchups—both at the Olympics.

them a bit of momentum. It got away from us a little."

Fournier sympathized with his Australian counterparts, mentioning names like Bogut and Dellavedova.

"I know those guys and it's

Nadal to open in ATP Cup in Perth; Djokovic on east coast

SYDNEY (AP)—U.S. Open champion Rafael Nadal will start his 2020 season on the opposite side of Australia to Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer when he



leads Spain in a group-stage qualifier in the new ATP Cup team competition.

Spain was drawn into Group B with Japan and Georgia and will play in Perth on Australia's west coast, where the U.S. team, Daniil Medvedev's Russia team and Italy will also be competing in Group D.

Nadal collected his 19th major title, moving within one of Federer's record for men, when he held off Medvedev, 7-5, 6-3, 5-7, 4-6, 6-4 in a U.S. Open final that lasted nearly five hours. Nadal remained at No. 2 in the rankings, behind Djokovic, and Medvedev moved up to career-best No. 4.

Djokovic's Serbia squad was drawn into Group A along with France and South Africa in one of two groups

based in Brisbane on Australia's east coast, along with Australia, Germany, Canada and Greece in Group F.

No. 3-ranked Federer's Swiss team will open in Group C against Belgium and Britain in Sydney, where Group E—containing Austria, Croatia and Argentina—will also be based.

There are five spots still open in the 24-country tournament which starts in the three cities on Jan. 3 and will double as the season-opening event for the men's tennis tour.

Eight teams from the six-day group stage will advance to the knockout rounds, which will continue in Sydney until Jan. 12.

The ATP says all players in the top 10, and 27 of the top 30 players in the rankings, have committed to playing in the ATP Cup.

The Australian Open, the first major of the season, is set to start Jan. 20 in Melbourne.

Dodgers deal blow to Mets' playoff chances



NEW YORK

(AP)—Pete Alonso is slumping at the wrong time for the New York Mets.

And with little margin for error, their two most reliable relievers let a game get away Sunday night that might prove too much to overcome.

Jedd Gyorko got off the bench late and played a big role in rallying the Los Angeles Dodgers to a 3-2 victory that damaged the Mets' dwindling playoff chances. They dropped four games behind the Cubs for the second NL wild card with 13 to go. Milwaukee trails Chicago by just one game.

New York visits also-rans Colorado and Cincinnati on its final road trip this week before hosting last-place Miami and NL East-leading Atlanta to finish the season.

"We've got a lot of fight on this team, so I wouldn't count us out yet," pitcher Zack Wheeler said.

Gyorko scored the tying run in the eighth inning on Chris Taylor's double and hit an RBI single off Seth Lugo (6-4) with two outs in the ninth to put the NL West champions in front.

Los Angeles moved four games ahead of the Braves for the best record in the National League with 11 to play and closed within one game of the New York Yankees for the top

mark in the majors.

Brewers 7, Cardinals 6

Ryan Braun's ninth-inning grand slam rallied the Milwaukee Brewers past St. Louis Cardinals.

Braun crushed a two-out, 3-2 pitch from Cardinals reliever Junior Fernandez to erase a 4-3 deficit in dramatic fashion.

The Brewers won for the ninth time in 10 games to move within three games of the National League-Central leading Cardinals. Milwaukee is one game behind the Chicago Cubs for the second wild-card spot.

Rockies 10, Padres 5

Ryan McMahon homered twice and drove in four runs and Josh Fuentes added a homer and four RBIs as Colorado beat San Diego in Denver.

Garrett Hampson added three hits and scored three runs and pitcher Chi Chi Gonzalez got his first major league hit and RBIs before leaving with a lead.

Wil Myers and Luis Urias homered and had two hits apiece, and Josh Naylor also went deep for the Padres, who were outscored 31-23 in the three-game sweep by Colorado.

Mariners 11, White Sox 10

Tom Murphy drew a walk with one out and the bases



AP New York Mets catcher Wilson Ramos, left, has the ball in his glove but cannot make the tag in time as Los Angeles Dodgers' Max Muncy (13) scores on Cory Seager's fourth-inning RBI-single in a baseball game Sunday, Sept. 15, 2019, in New York.

with seven scoreless innings as Washington beat the visiting Braves.

Sanchez (9-8) allowed only three hits and one walk, striking out three. He improved to 3-0 in five starts against Atlanta this season.

Washington produced 10 hits and was led by Howie Kendrick, who went 3-for-4 with a homer, scored twice and drove in three runs.

Astros 12, Royals 3

Josh Reddick had five hits and three RBIs as Houston defeated host Kansas City.

Wade Miley (14-5), who hadn't gotten out of the first inning in his past two starts, got back on the winning track. He allowed two runs on seven hits in six innings. He struck out four and walked two.

Athletics 6, Rangers 1

Marcus Semien and Matt Chapman homered, and Sean Manaea pitched six shutout innings to lead Oakland to its sixth straight victory as it beat Texas.

Semien's homer was his 30th of the season, joining Matt Olson (34) and Chapman (34) in the 30-home run club and tying the team record for players with 30 homers in a season last accomplished in 2001. Chapman's solo shot in the ninth was the 244th home run of the season for the A's, breaking the franchise record also set in 1996.

Angels 6, Rays 4

Albert Pujols had a three-run homer and an RBI double to help Los Angeles end a six-game losing streak with a win against Tampa Bay in Anaheim, Calif.

Kevan Smith had three hits and Andrelton Simmons had two hits and scored twice for the Angels.

Rays left-hander Ryan Yarbrough (11-4) hadn't lost since June 13, going 6-0 in his past 15 outings with a 2.43 ERA.

Giants 2, Marlins 1

Johnny Cueto threw five shutout innings for the second consecutive start and Mike Yastrzemski scored the go-ahead run in the eighth on a wild pitch as San Francisco edged visiting Miami.

Mauricio Dubon homered for the Giants, who won two of three in the series.

Trout out, but still in for MVP race

Los Angeles Angels center fielder Mike Trout, who has missed the past week with a foot injury, will not return to action for the rest of this season.

The Angels announced Sunday that Trout will have surgery later this week to remove the Morton's neuroma on his right foot. The decision closes the book on another historic season for the two-time American League MVP, who is a leading contender to win the award again this year.

Trout finishes the season with a .291 batting average, 110 runs scored, 104 RBI and a career-high 45 home runs.

Trout becomes the second former MVP to have his season end prematurely due to injury after Milwaukee Brewers outfielder Christian Yelich fractured his kneecap last week on a foul ball.

Yelich's chances to repeat as NL MVP likely went by the wayside after he was hurt, but Trout should still be considered the AL frontrunner, without even playing another game.

Trout leads the league

in home runs, one ahead of Kansas City's Jorge Soler. He's one of only four players in the AL with at least 100 runs scored and 100 RBI. Plus, he leads the league in OPS (1.083) and Wins Above Replacement (8.3).

Perhaps his closest competition in the MVP race, Alex Bregman of the Houston Astros, will finish with more runs scored and RBI, but his .998 OPS—while still quite impressive—is still 85 points behind Trout. In terms of WAR, Bregman (7.4) is unlikely to pass Trout with just two weeks remaining in the regular season.

Of course, the voters could give Bregman extra credit for the Astros making the playoffs while the Angels, who haven't won since Trout has been out, are fourth in the AL West.

Trout has finished in the top five in the AL MVP voting in each of his seven previous full seasons in the majors. He won the award in 2014 and 2016, and finished second four other times, including last year as the runner-up to Boston's Mookie Betts.

Roberto Perez belted a go-ahead, three-run home run in the sixth inning as host Cleveland recorded a victory over Minnesota to salvage the finale of their three-game series.

Mike Freeman added a

pinch-hit RBI single in the seventh inning for the Indians, who responded to Saturday's doubleheader sweep by trimming their deficit to 4 1/2 games behind first-place Minnesota in the American League Central.

Reds 3, Diamondbacks 1

Eugenio Suarez hit two solo home runs, including a 456-foot blast, and Trevor Bauer pitched eight strong innings to help Cincinnati to a victory over Arizona in Phoenix.

Suarez moved into a tie for the major league lead with 47 homers, the same as New

York Mets rookie Pete Alonso. Suarez has three multi-homer games this season, two against the Diamondbacks in the past eight days. He has five homers against Arizona this season.

Blue Jays 6, Yankees 4

Randal Grichuk hit two home runs and had four RBIs, right-hander T.J. Zeuch earned his first major league win and Toronto defeated New York.

Zeuch (1-0), who entered the game in the second inning, allowed three runs (two earned), five hits and three walks while striking out five in 5 1/3 innings. It was his third

career appearance.

Cubs 16, Pirates 6

Kris Bryant went 3-for-5 with a pair of home runs and four RBIs, and the Chicago Cubs cruised to a 16-6 win over the visiting Pittsburgh Pirates to complete a three-game sweep.

Bryant hit a three-run homer in the first inning and a solo shot in the third to give him 31 on the season. Ian Happ, Kyle Schwarber and Jonathan Lucroy also homered for Chicago (81-68), which maintained its hold on the second wild-card spot in the National League.

Orioles 8, Tigers 2

Rio Ruiz hit a two-run homer, Jonathan Villar and Anthony Santander also drove in two runs and visiting Baltimore rolled past Detroit.

Asher Wojciechowski (3-8) pitched five innings and gave up two runs on eight hits while collecting the win. He had dropped his last five decisions.

Baltimore has taken two of the first three games of the series in a matchup of the majors' worst teams.

Nationals 7, Braves 0

Right-hander Anibal Sanchez slowed down the Atlanta bats

Brees injured, Rams beat Saints in rematch

NFL LOS ANGELES (AP)—With Drew Brees watching from the sideline with an injured hand, the Rams didn't need a no-call to beat the Saints again Sunday night, 27-9.

Jared Goff passed for 283 yards and a touchdown and rushed for another score, and the Rams (2-0) stopped New Orleans from scoring an offensive touchdown for the first time since 2016.

The much-anticipated matchup changed dramatically when Brees was injured late in the first quarter. His throwing hand collided with Aaron Donald's outstretched hand while he threw an incompletion on the Saints' second drive. The NFL's career leader in yards passing spent the afternoon on the Coliseum sideline with his thumb heavily wrapped.

Teddy Bridgewater went 17 of 30 for 165 yards and Alvin Kamara rushed for just 45 yards for the Saints (1-1), who seemed discombobulated without their longtime quarterback. New Orleans didn't score an offensive touchdown for only the fourth time in 13-plus seasons under coach Sean Payton, who got a lengthy contract extension before the game.

Todd Gurley rushed for 63 yards and scored his first touchdown of the season late in the third quarter of this rematch of the Rams' 26-23 overtime win in New Orleans last January. That game turned on the infamous uncalled pass interference late in regulation by Rams cornerback Nickell Robey-Coleman, who had six tackles in the rematch.

Falcons 24, Eagles 20

In Atlanta, Julio Jones hauled in a short pass behind the line of scrimmage, got the blocks he needed and didn't stop running until he was well past the end zone.

The Philadelphia Eagles never had a chance.

In the blink of an eye, Jones turned a fourth-down screen pass into a 54-yard touchdown with 2:10 remaining Sunday night. The Atlanta Falcons surrendered a huge play of their own on fourth down but came up with the defensive stop they needed to preserve a wild victory.

Jones' speed on the winning play was stunning, reaching an estimated 20 mph as he glided away from a futile swipe by Rodney McLeod and left Andrew Sendejo far behind.

"OK, it's a footrace now," Jones said. "That was it. It really wasn't like I had to try hard or anything like that. I just had to stay on course."



It was Jones who really bailed out the Falcons—and became the franchise's career leader in receiving yards with his winning score, passing Roddy White.

Bears 16, Broncos 14

In Denver, Eddy Pineiro kicked a 53-yard field goal as time expired, giving the Chicago Bears a wild win over the Broncos and their former defensive coordinator Vic Fangio, whose gutsy 2-point call 31 seconds earlier had given Denver the lead.

The Broncos (0-2) thought time had expired when Mitchell Trubisky stepped up and threw a 25-yard pass to Allen Robinson on fourth-and-15 from his 40-yard line. Robinson was tackled at the Denver 35 by Chris Harris Jr.

The clock showed all zeroes and both teams milled around on the field not knowing whether to celebrate a win or lament a loss.

Patriots 43, Dolphins 0

In Florida, Antonio Brown caught a 20-yard touchdown pass in his debut for the Patriots, and they scored twice on interception returns in a two-minute fourth-quarter span.

Brown also made an 18-yard catch on his first play for the Patriots (2-0), who signed him Monday. He finished with 56 yards on four receptions, all in the first half.

The NFL allowed the four-time All-Pro receiver to play despite a civil lawsuit filed Tuesday by his former trainer

accusing him of sexually assaulting her on three occasions.

Seahawks 28, Steelers 26

In Pittsburgh, Russell Wilson threw for three touchdowns for Seattle, including a 28-yard rainbow to DK Metcalf midway through the fourth quarter.

The Steelers lost starting quarterback Ben Roethlisberger to a right elbow injury late in the first half and fell to 0-2 for the first time since 2013 despite solid play from backup Mason Rudolph, who threw a pair of second-half touchdown passes to Vance McDonald.

Roethlisberger began flexing his right arm after an incompletion late in the second quarter. He stayed in to finish the drive before jogging to the locker room.

Chiefs 28, Raiders 10

In Oakland, Patrick Mahomes bounced back from the first scoreless opening quarter of his career in the regular season by throwing four touchdown passes in a near perfect second period.

The Raiders (1-1) held Mahomes in check for the opening 15 minutes before he carved up an overmatched defense with big play after big play in the second quarter for the Chiefs (2-0).

Mahomes didn't take long to strike, finding Demarcus Robinson open on a blown coverage for a 44-yard touchdown pass on the first play in the second quarter. He didn't slow down from there.

Colts 19, Titans 17

In Nashville, Jacoby Brissett became the latest Indianapolis quarterback to top Tennessee, throwing a 4-yard touchdown pass to T.Y. Hilton with 4:38 left. Brissett had come up empty for Indianapolis against Tennessee, losing both games he started against the Titans in 2017. After Andrew Luck retired with a perfect 11-0 record against the Titans, Brissett picked up right where Luck left off. He passed for 146 yards and three TDs.

The Colts (1-1) also sacked Marcus Mariota four times.

Ravens 23, Cardinals 17

In Baltimore, Lamar Jackson kept the Cardinals guessing all afternoon, supplementing an effective passing attack with more than an occasional jaunt out of the pocket. Jackson threw for 272 yards and two touchdowns and ran for 120 yards in a showdown between two of the league's most exciting young quarterbacks.

After achieving a perfect passer rating and throwing five TD passes in a season-opening 59-10 rout of Miami, Jackson wasn't quite as sharp through the air but far more effective with his legs. He

Texans 13, Jaguars 12

In Houston, Justin Reid stopped Leonard Fournette on a 2-point conversion attempt with 36 seconds left.

Houston led by 13-6 in the fourth quarter when Jacksonville rookie Gardner Minshew

led a long drive that included an 18-yard run on fourth-and-10, and he capped it with a 4-yard TD pass to DJ Chark. Instead of trying to tie it with a kicked extra point, Jaguars coach Doug Marrone opted to go for the potential win. But Fournette was stopped by Reid. The play was upheld by video review, giving the Texans (1-1) the victory.

Bills 28, Giants 14

In East Rutherford, Somewhat maligned Josh Allen ran for a touchdown, threw for another, and the Bills claimed the bragging rights of New York.

Buffalo has its first 2-0 start since 2014 and only the third in 11 mostly fruitless years.

Devin Singletary scored on a 14-yard run and Frank Gore iced the game with a 1-yard plunge into the end zone with 5:53 to play as the Bills completed the New York/New Jersey sweep at MetLife Stadium. They beat the Jets last weekend.

Allen finished 19 of 30 for 253 yards in becoming Buffalo's first quarterback to pass for 200 or more yards in seven straight games since Hall of Famer Jim Kelly in 1992.

49ers 41, Bengals 17

In Cincinnati, Jimmy Garoppolo tied his career high with three touchdown passes and the 49ers completed a sweet and satisfying week in the Buckeye State.

Rather than return to the West Coast after their opening 31-17 win in Tampa Bay, the 49ers headed to Youngstown,

AP

Los Angeles Rams running back Todd Gurley jumps over offensive tackle Rob Havenstein during the second half of an NFL football game against the New Orleans Saints Sunday, Sept. 15, 2019, in Los Angeles.

Ohio, where they worked out on a soccer field, enjoyed a local ice cream shop and rested at a Holiday Inn. Then they started their trek west with a resounding and notable win.

The 49ers improved to 2-0 for the first time since 2012.

Packers 21, Vikings 16

In Wisconsin, Aaron Rodgers threw two early touchdowns on a day when the Packers honored late Hall of Famer Bart Starr at halftime.

Rodgers put on quite a show—particularly early. Rodgers completed nine of his first 10 passes for 134 yards and two touchdowns and had a perfect 158.3 rating through the first quarter. He finished 22 of 34 for 209 yards.

The Packers improved to 2-0 under new coach Matt LaFleur after opening the NFL's 100th season with a victory at rival Chicago..

Cowboys 31, Redskins 21

In Landover, Dak Prescott carved up the Washington defense with his arm and his legs, completing 26 of 30 passes for 269 yards and three touchdowns and rushing for 69 yards.

A week after putting up a perfect 158.3 QB rating, Prescott responded from an interception to lead Dallas (2-0) on consecutive touchdown drives of 97, 83 and 75 yards. He's the first Cowboys quarterback to compile seven touchdown passes in the first two games of the season since Don Meredith in 1966.

On the verge of a contract extension that's expected to guarantee him over \$30 million, Prescott connected with three receivers on the touchdowns.

Lions 13, Chargers 10

In Detroit, Matthew Stafford threw a go-ahead, 31-yard touchdown pass to Kenny Golladay midway through the fourth quarter and Darius Slay made an interception in the end zone with 1:03 left.

Detroit (1-0-1) overcame Stafford's two interceptions, Slay giving up a lot of receptions and Matt Prater missing an extra point and a field goal.

The Chargers (1-1) were in a position to attempt a 45-yard field goal to tie the game, but Philip Rivers tried to force a pass to Keenan Allen and Slay picked it off.

Pikaboo, 2 others reach Asian Open semis

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Team CNMI/Trench Tech put up a valiant fight in the 2019 Asian International Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation Jiu-Jitsu Championships with three of its members entering the semifinals of the competition held in Japan over the weekend.

According to BJJ instructor Cuki Alvarez, who also joined the tournament, Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez, Vince "The Clinch" Masga, and Paulo "The Sang" Sangalang all won their first matches and made it to the semifinals.

"However, they were all submitted in their second matches and were ultimately eliminated from this single elimination format tourna-



ment," Cuki said.

As for Lo Itibus, CNMI's lone female representative in the event dubbed as Asian Open, and Mark "The Dark" Nuique, they both dropped their first matches.

"They did fantastic in their first matches but both lost. Mark lost by an advantage (a score less than a point) because his opponent apparently had a slightly better position. Lo tapped out via arm bar at 3 and 1/2 minutes into her match against a more experienced opponent who was a 3-striped white belt. A stripe signifies improvement and advancement and experience in overall skill set in BJJ and this girl had 3 stripes. She is basically on the verge of becoming a blue belt," Cuki said.

The Trench Tech founder, on



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members and officials of Team CNMI/Trench Tech pose for a photo before competing in the Asian Open in Japan last weekend.

more athletes from our beloved CNMI to join our BJJ program and travel with us to future competitions like the Asian Open," he said.

Alvarez and company would like to thank the following for supporting their participation to the Asian Open: IT&E, Saipan Crewboats, Office of Senator Jude Hofschneider, Marianas Visitors Authority, FISG, Skydive Saipan, Black Wood, Coach Jose Mafnas, Jr., Captain John Salas, Coach Ken Tanzawa, Saipan Apparel, and Hybrid Shop. The group also acknowledged those who supported the team's cookie fundraiser.

AUSTERITY

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athletes in off-island tournaments, while the appropriation from the government is allotted for staff salaries and operations and maintenance of the Oleai Sports Complex.

Meanwhile, *Saipan Tribune* learned that NMSA is struggling to get support for funding request, as it has yet to submit an annual report to the government since the group was established through Public Law 18-49 in 2014.

Section 110 of the P.L. 18-49 states that NMSA is required to, on or before the first day of June 2014, and annually thereafter, transmit simultaneously to the governor and to each

House of the Legislature, a detailed report of its operations.

According to the provision of the law, the annual report must include a complete statement of its receipts and expenditures; a comprehensive description of the activities and accomplishments of the corporation during such period; data concerning the participation of women, disabled individuals, and racial and ethnic minorities in the amateur athletic activities and administration of the corporation and national governing bodies; and a description of the steps taken to encourage the participation of women, disabled individuals, and racial minorities in amateur athletic activities.

TanHoldings and Shirley's against MP United.

BOYS U18

TanHoldings 3, Matansa 0

TanHoldings also triumphed in its first game of the season in the boys U18 division after shutting down Matansa.

Mark Esalan, Joshua Waldo, and Jonathan Capayas posted the goal for TanHoldings. Esalan lit up the board first with his shot in the 34th minute, while Capayas and Waldo scored in the 58th and 70th, respectively.

MP United 8, Kanoa 1

In the other match in the division, MP United dominated Kanoa.

Six different players delivered in MP United's lopsided victory. John Michael Rojas and Oliver Lee registered two goals apiece, while Eun Syu Hahn, Dylan Mister, Floyd Muna, and Skyler Poon contributed one apiece.

Markus Toves made the lone goal for Kanoa.

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

TSINGTAO ONE PACIFIC PROMOTIONAL BASKETBALL LEAGUE

Mawati played better in the second half to top IT&E Light, 71-59, in the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League last Friday at the Civic Center Court.

Mawati fell behind by as much as 11 points in the first quarter, 27-16, and was still facing a deficit at the halftime break, 28-35, when it made its move in the third period to grab the upper hand. Mawati went on a 26-13 scoring surge in the penultimate frame for a 54-47 advantage.

Frank Ferrer led the way for Mawati in the third quarter with his 13 points, 9 of them were made from the 3-point area. Five of his teammates also contributed in the pivotal third to turn the table on IT&E Light.

IT&E Light never recovered from thereon, as only Henry Divinagracia made more than one field goal for the squad in the fourth period,

BRIDGE

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ing 8 markers in the second canto. He added 5 more in the third, while six of his teammates also made it to the board in the penultimate frame to up Bridge Capital's lead, 62-50.

Bridge Capital then lost the double-digit spread, as Mak Mintac and E.J. Abejo rallied The Game in the fourth quarter, scoring 9 points each. However, The Game failed to complete the comeback, as Pelisamen stepped up anew and fired 10 points to hand Bridge Capital its first victory in the inaugural league.

Markus Toves made the lone goal for Kanoa.

the other hand, was entered in the Masters 4 Black Belt division and lost his first match by a penalty. A penalty is given when the referee feels you are not trying to improve your position during a lock down or trap.

"I couldn't escape my opponents closed guard so I was given a penalty for that," he said.

Despite falling short in their bid for medals in the tournament, Cuki said that the experience was amazing for Team CNMI and they hope to bring what they learned during the

competition to the next training camp.

"We all learned from this amazing experience and will definitely bring back what we learned to our next training camp and improve from there. We hope to inspire

Mawati rallies past IT&E Light



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Mawati's Frank Ferrer elects to pass the ball to his teammate, as he faces the defense of Connie's BBQ's Darwin Barbo during an earlier game in the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League at the Civic Center Court.

while Mawati drew baskets from multiple players to keep the lead and complete the come-from-behind win.

Ferrer paced Mawati with his 24 points, while Arjay Nonato added 13. Divinagracia had 22 for IT&E Light.

Mawati notched its sixth

win in eight games to join Connie's BBQ and Pardz Ballers in second place in the team standings, while IT&E Light is still at No. 6 with its 4-3 record.

Mawati 71—Ferrer 24, Nonato 13, Avila 8, Directo 6,

Rena 5, Gontar 4, Enriquez 4, Velasco 4, Reyes 2.

IT&E Light 59—Divinagracia 22, Santos 10, Madre 10, Gotengco 10, Palacios 3, Jose 2, Caronan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-27, 28-35, 54-48, 71-59.

4, Camacho 4, Cabaltica 4.

The Game 80—Mintac 25, Abejo 13, Fidelino 12, Javier 11, Sanguyo 6, Castro 5, Santos 3, Sablan 3, Vivero 2.

Scoring by quarters: 15-16, 39-29, 62-50, 83-80.

Saturday's Game

Saipan Vegas 103—Atan 22, Santos 18, Schmidt 16, P. Basa 14, Bondoc 9, E. Basa 6, Deleon Guerrero 6, Diaz 6, Onopwy 6.

Mystique 65—Tekopua 16, Dancel 11, Rivera 9, Gaviola 8, Bernardo 6, Broncano 4m Castillo 4, Isip 3, Moises 2, Torres 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-12, 40-30, 74-49, 103-65

Saipan Vegas 103, Mystique 65

Saipan Vegas took the solo lead in the 10-team league after pounding Mystique last Saturday.

Saipan Vegas kept its unbeaten record in three games, while Mystique fell to a 1-2 mark.

Aiferson Atan led four Saipan Vegas players in double figures after logging 22 points. Coby Santos chipped in 18, while Douglas Schmidt and Preston Basa had 16 and 14, respectively, for Saipan Vegas, which pulled away in the third quarter and showed no mercy to Mystique in the fourth.

Already ahead by 10 at the break, 40-30, Saipan Vegas

hammered Mystique in the third behind the 12 points of Santos. Basa contributed 8, including 6 from the 3-point range, to lift Saipan Vegas to a 74-49 lead.

Despite the wide margin, Saipan Vegas went for the kill in the final canto with Atan finishing off Mystique by scoring 9 points. Four other Saipan Vegas players made at least 3 points each in the fourth canto to complete their second-half domination.

Friday's Game

Bridge Capital 83—Pelisamen 25, M. Duenas 18, Teregeyo 9, Rangamar 7, Deleon Guerrero 6, Santos 6, Lizama



Gasol completes
historic double,
Spain wins
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Brees injured,
Rams beat Saints
in rematch

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

TanHoldings, MPU triumph

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

TanHoldings Football Club and MP United FC won their season debuts in the girls U16 division of the 2019 NMIFA Fall Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

 TanHoldings downed Southern United FC, 2-0, while MP United defeated Matansa FC, 5-2. Kanoa Football Club rounded out the winners list in the opening week after prevailing over Shirley's Football Club via default.

Rizza Relucio and Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez delivered the pair of goals for TanHoldings



with the former drawing first blood in the 27th minute and the latter finding the back of the net in the 68th.

In the other game last Saturday, Audrey Castro gave MP

United a good start after firing four of their five goals. She made her first two in the 10th

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Austerity measures leaves NMSA without funding

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

No funding is appropriated for the Northern Marianas Sports Association in the Legislature-approved budget for fiscal year 2020 due to austerity measures.

Rep. Ivan Blanco (R-Saipan) confirmed that the administration's proposal for the FY 2020 budget zeroed

out NMSA's funding as part of the austerity measures the government has had to take.

"The zero out was in accordance with the administration's FY '20 budget proposal which included budget cuts across, zero out of unfilled FTE's, hiring freeze of new personnel, etc.," he said.

Blanco said that the Legislature tried to identify some sort



of funding for NMSA through the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, but the move did not get enough support from members.

"We tried to fund it under SNILD, but couldn't muster enough numbers to support it. We will bring it up again in any new funding source for members' consideration," he said.

Saipan Tribune reached out to NMSA president Michael White to request for comments on the lack of government appropriation for the association and he said he has no comment at this time. NMSA executive director Tony Rogolifo, on the other hand, is still off-island and unavailable to give comments as of press time last night.

NMSA, besides getting appropriation from the government, gains funding from its lottery program. The funds from the lottery are used for the participation of CNMI



The Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium is one of the facilities under Northern Marianas Sports Association's care.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
TanHoldings Football Club's Judy Ann Andebor dives for a save during the second half of their girls U16 game against Southern United FC in the 2019 NMIFA Fall Youth League last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Bridge Capital gets first victory

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Bridge Capital, LLC barged into the win column in the Atkins Kroll Marianas International Basketball League after outclassing The Game, 83-80, last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Bridge Capital, which dropped its first two matches led by double figures in the second and third quarter and withstood The Game's rally in the fourth to take the 3-point win.

Freddie Pelisamen topscored for Bridge Capital with his 25 points, making 9 of them in the second quarter to hand their team a 39-29 halftime edge after falling behind by a hair in the opening canto, 15-16.

Matt Duenas, who saw limited minutes in the first period and missed all his shots, made up for his early struggle, register-



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Bridge Capital, LLC's Matt Duenas, center, fakes off the defense of The Game's Mak Mintac, left, and Jun Fidelino during the second quarter of their match in the Atkins Kroll Marianas International Basketball League last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

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